

Old St. Mary's School Board
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019

Attendees: Julie Marcus; Josie Disterhoft; Maryellen Harrington; Sam Kelly; Mark Apel; Fr. Brad; Paula McQuade; Laura Vinci; Robbie Anderson

Julie called the meeting to order with a prayer provided by Maryellen.

Minutes from previous school board meeting were approved

Julie summarized the Financial Informational meetings that took place this last week. The Financial Vitality Task Team partnered with Diana and the School Finance Subcommittee; there were 20 - 30 people who attended each session. Mark provided feedback that parents preferred the 7:45am time slot. The presentation will be posted to the OSM school website.

Julie summarized the Blue Ribbon Fund portion of the meeting. The Blue Ribbon Annual Fund will support the priority of the school. This year's fund will honor and support our teachers. All donations received will be designated for the teachers – this fund is separate from operational funds received through tuition. In the future, ideally aspects of teachers support (mentoring, development, etc.) will be folded into the operational budget. This year's goal for the Blue Ribbon Fund is 100% for teachers of OSM.

Catholic ID: Maryellen summarized the 3 goals of the Catholic ID task team. The task team is still coming to grips with the bigger strategic picture and one action item is to create a survey to find out how we can improve ministry, draw people in, and be inclusive. The team will look at various reasons down the road, and present a possible survey to the School Board. Cementing links in parish and increasing engagement is a goal. Our school welcome packet to new parents doesn't include church information, such as Mass times, ministries, etc.; this has been identified as something that can be added going forward and the task team will work with the Enrollment Director to address these changes. Team discussed creating a "buddy system" to help bring people in, addition of masses for our sports teams. The Catholic ID team also discussed differing tuition rates for parishioners vs. non-parishioners.

Academic Excellence report: Paula reported that some ideas for raising money have been accomplished by Financial Vitality committee since one of the goals was to retain teachers. Committee

Old St. Mary's School Board
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2019

may rethink its charge and revisit responsibilities. Father Brad suggested looking into programs that are being offered in the school and determining if they fit into the committee. He encouraged the group to work toward the academic rigor piece. The Board agreed that academic rigor should be an area of focus.

Governance and Leadership: Julie summarized goals of diversity, space needs, diversity of teachers and administration and org structure and staff development plan for succession planning. The team is doing an outstanding job of engaging the group and analyzing the diversity inside the school. The school's diversity is more reflective to outside the school than originally thought, but we do not appear to celebrate it enough. Team is looking into scholarship fund, to examine children in need who need it, but there is also insight as to how it can provide for current student base.

Mary Ellen Gornick resigned from the OSM School Board; Julie read her resignation aloud to the school board. The school board will work toward finding a person to fill her position. Fr. Brad identified two points that will be helpful to us. Non-school and non-parishioner board members may be able to share a different perspective.

Parish report: the parish is very busy organizing finance and parish council work, processes and clarifying pathways. Staff is discussing calendaring, job descriptions for staff, use of parish center, and use of personnel with the goal of finding best practices. Financial report of the parish will be in the bulletin this week.

Father reflected on the trip to Washington, DC to receive the Blue Ribbon award; "team blue" met Illinois senators thanks to parishioner Clarisol. It was a special for the team to be together and experience the significance of OSM's representation.

The next meeting for task team co-chairs is TBD.

The next school board meeting is on January 30th.