

October 2018 Minutes

10-10-17

In attendance: Ray Hill, Katy Ahern, Amy Brandt, Cathy Linley, Maureen Shaw, Tom Dewbray, Kathleen Hillsman, Erin Raniere, Aamir Rajan, Fr. Chris Lankford, and Fr. Tom Paul

After Gospel reflection meeting opened at 6:49pm.

Principal's Report:

The diocese has established Catholic standards for our curriculum to reflect God's truth, beauty and goodness and discuss them throughout subject areas. Each week we have been emphasizing specific Catholic virtues and values. Last week we discussed peace, which was time appropriate with the shooting in Las Vegas. We are emphasizing this one virtue or value and are discussing what those values look like in daily life. How can we practice them at school and at home. We are trying to recognize people (no names) who exemplified those virtues and honor that behavior. Teachers have been asked to use the shining star to reinforce these. We ask parents to promote and encourage them at home. This is how we become disciples that witness the Gospel to others.

We have scheduled Professional Learning Cmte. meetings every Wednesday and have also added others into the calendar schedule. The additional 4 PLC meetings have been wonderful. The first one focused on reading and writing and discussed best practices. Gave all teachers an idea of what the standards are throughout all grade levels. This is helpful especially to new teachers. We discussed our own goals and diocesan goals. We also covered safety training. Classroom management, expectations have been covered and at the next meeting math will also be covered. How are the ways we help our struggling students and challenge those who need it. We have already incorporated executive function skills and will be covering more of them. These afternoons are vital for us all to be coordinated. We move right into action when the year starts and these are ways to get everyone on the same page. Katy Ahern suggested eblasting information to parents so that they know how beneficial these opportunities are. Mrs. Linley will write something up that will be eblasted to parents. Between these days and the diocesan institute days early in the school year, it has made for a choppy start with incomplete weeks. Now we will be settling into a more steady schedule. ICGS has an exceedingly high number of teaching hours comparatively. The YMCA and other local daycare providers conform their schedules to District 205 and not to ours. Our parents have to pay for these services regardless of whether or not we have that day off. Fr. Tom emphasized that there is great value for the students in being on a steady schedule and getting off to a structured schedule.

President's Report:

Ray Hill appreciates everyone's flexibility in aligning to 2 main committees :

Marketing/enrollment initiatives:

-All Saints Day Mass –we are targeting the IC Moms group, MQH early learning students, Bethel Learning Center program, ICGS Preschool & kindergarten families, RE families, parish families, and Children's Church. We really need to connect and make these people feel like they belong. Then we need to follow up with each guest afterward. The new registration fee will be \$300 and the applications will be numbered as they are received for priority. Now that we have a program set up, we may want to expand the number of additional early learning programs to market to. The committee will brainstorm and look at additional prospects. We have to looking at new ways of inviting millenials.

-Social evening at Elmhurst Brewery in January where prospective parents will be invited.

-St. Patrick's parade float with saints and Irish dancers

-Fr. Tom suggested that we really find a way of reaching out to newer parents and make them feel like they belong. It was suggested that the school board reach out to work with the Parents' Club on arranging more social events by grade where people feel connected and belong. Personal invitations to accompany to these social event will be key.

Annual Appeal & Endowment Fund

-Fr. Tom would like the committee to brainstorm some new ways to publicize and promote the endowment.

-We will be promoting 3 pillars of what we would like to do with Endowment Fund money:

- Offset tuition increases

- Retaining teachers by providing additional monetary incentives

- Tuition assistance in time of crisis

-This committee will meet to discuss different ideas and also a written piece/brochure that explains the Endowment Fund and these pillars.

-Robert Moore asked Mrs. Linley to touch base with teachers about what they would like to see in the classroom. Color printers, copiers, iPads, additional STEM materials, additional aps (not necessarily free ones) for iPads, and cabinets to store this equipment.

-Ms. Rudis will be offering some extracurricular computer coding activities Also robotics related activities may be offered. Tom Dewbray knows a Dad who is in the coding business who may be interested in offering learning for kids. Mrs. Linley asked if Tom could have this Dad reach out to her.

Faith Formation Commission Report

-Ray Hill attended this meeting (they meet 4 times per year) and they talked about parish leadership night on October 16th here at IC with Fr. David Mowry at 7pm. There are also openings on the parish council. The parish lost Sharon Natanek who was a council member to cancer.

Pastor's Report

-Fr. Tom received the 6th day enrollment numbers from the diocese. In the Catholic population there is a decrease across the board. We are 5th in size in the diocese. In DuPage County there is a significant decrease in the number of children. St. Petronille and St. Michael's are the most stable in the diocese. Diocesan enrollment is down 8.4%. Maybe we should talk to St. Michael's and see what they are up to.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.