

St. Dominic Education Commission October 12, 2020

Attendance: Joe Kruessel, Mike Liderbach, Patrick Lahni, Jessica Williams, Jessica Remmel, Kim Luebbering, Michael Stenger, Mark Goins, Bill Cavanaugh, Peter Gibbs

Absent:

- 1) Call to Order (7:00)
- 2) Opening Prayer (Bill)
- 3) Approval of September minutes - **Approved by unanimous consent**
- 4) Education Commission Roles & Responsibilities Overview for new members (7:05)
 - **Advisory to principal, pastor**
 - **Invite everyone to bring gifts/talents to bear on school needs**
- 5) Old Business (7:10)
 - Technology Updates, including website strategy discussion
 - **Chromebooks still on order, principal and computer teacher still discussing website updates in collaboration with parish web owner.**
 - **Computer classes started this week.**
 - **Need updated information on website ASAP (staff list, calendar, COVID directions, etc.)**
 - **Joe Kruessel offers to present proposal for website overhaul and online marketing.**
 - **Playground painting update Started Saturday, more to be done due to rain delay. Kudos to Patti Bosse, 8th graders, other volunteers.**
 - **Weekday Mass attendance status for school children Typically two grades in-church each week, rest of school watches via live stream. Some parents have expressed interest in seeing several school masses each week to allow all students to attend in-person.**
- 8) New Business (7:25)
 - **COVID protocols - current status/future visions**
 - **No students have tested positive**
 - **Quarantined student support is identical to sickness protocol. Parents requesting some effort to provide some form of live support during quarantine due to length and impact.**
- 9) Committee Reports (7:40)
 - **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter) - 5 min
 - Confirmation Updates
 - **See below**
 - **PTO** (Korb or Hasselbeck) - 5 min
 - **Instead of Trunk Or Treat, doing enhanced Wednesday Wow with funds from Knights of Columbus and Men's Society**
 - **Provided paint for playground/parking lot decorations/games**
 - **Considering trash bag fundraiser, open to other suggestions**
 - **School Strategic Plan** - 15 min

- 2020/2021 goals and subcommittee leads (Peter) - **Overview of subcommittees, encourage focals to identify a goal to achieve this year**
 - Academic Excellence - Peter
 - Teacher Engagement - Jessica & Jessica
 - Catholic Culture & Family - Kim
 - Critical Activity List Review - Desire for entire committee to brainstorm substitute activities for next meeting
 - Marketing & Communication - Mark & Joe may take this leadership, will also be added to school Marketing committee
- **Principal's Report** (Bill) - 30 min
 - Suggested review of extracurriculars to identify opportunities to restart some (e.g., Art Club, STEM Club)
 - Request to consider in-person Junior Achievement, hot lunches
- **Tuition Credit** (Lahni) - 5 min
 - 11/2 Chipotle
 - Amazon quarterly deposit: \$73.79, low engagement

10) Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 9 at 7pm in school library.

11) Closing Prayer

12) Adjournment (8:45)

Principal's Report

1. On Saturday, Oct. 10, a small group of 8th graders and parents, and teachers (Mrs. Bosse, Mr. Ohmer, Mrs. Wanger (18-20 people) showed up to paint the playground. Despite the rain, the "games" got halfway painted on the playground. I was told that the painting would continue today and in the near future to get it completed. My thanks to Mrs. Bosse who took the lead on this and got the paint, brushes, and tape. My thanks to our PTO for funding this project. It was great to see this occur for our students.
2. Today, the Preschool rooms will have their air conditioners installed.
3. Today, Dan Jacobs and Jason Tuemler will be installing partitions in the restrooms throughout the school.
4. In the near future, I will be writing up a note of thanks that will be in the Parish Bulletin as well as The Torch thanking the parishioners for their contributions to making air conditioning a reality in our school this year. I am also going to take some time to say "thank you" at all the weekend masses as well. I will make the connection between the strategic planning (Dan Eddingfield's company) that was done last year with parishioners and the goals that parishioners felt was important. One of the top three goals was air conditioning for the school. This effort was led by Fr. Jim. I would like to thank Charlie DeZarn for his efforts on getting this accomplished as well.

5. Our first staff meeting will be Oct. 12 after school. We have a full agenda. We will be working on finalizing our meeting schedule (Academic Issues, Catholic Identity, and Technology, Marketing, etc.) for the rest of the year.
6. The mass planning schedule for Friday masses for November and December will be worked on by Karen Brandstetter and myself and once that is finished, I will put that in the Parent Press. The eighth graders are doing a great job distributing communion to the classes in school. I also get a chance to deliver communion to those staff that would not normally attend mass due to various reasons. They are grateful to receive communion every Friday.
7. Josh Shortt and I met and discussed the school's needs with regard to technology. I will be talking to him in the near future on how to reach our goals and ways in which Education Commission Members and Technology Committee members can help us.
8. I will be picking up more PPE materials from the HCESC (Hamilton County Educational Service Center) in Mt. Healthy this Friday for our school. In August, I went out there and received cloth masks, and face shields.
9. The 8th graders will have their Virtual Confirmation Retreat conducted by Net Ministries tomorrow Oct. 13 from 4-7 pm. Fr Jim, Karen Brandstetter, Mrs. Glassmeyer, Mr. Ward, and I will be on the Virtual Retreat. Karen spoke to the 8th graders this Friday about it and told the 8th graders what they needed for the retreat, encouraged them to have their sponsors be with them, and introduced herself to them and answered any questions they had. The 8th grade teachers will not be giving any homework for the students tomorrow due to the retreat.

Pastoral Associate's Report

First Communion: On Saturday, Sept. 19, 36 third grade students made their First Communion at a special 11 am mass. With their parents (and any other family who live in the same home), they received Our Lord in the Eucharist with the support of both 3rd and 2nd grade teachers, as these students could not make First Communion last spring due to the Covid-19 virus. Even though some of the "usual" aspects were missing to ensure safety and social distancing, the Gathering Space and the Church sanctuary were decorated more than in previous years and that added a sense of festivity to the celebration. The children and their parents seemed exceptionally joyous during the mass and many expressed their appreciation as they left the church. The liturgy was live streamed and recorded for extended family members and friends of the First Communicants to watch simultaneously or at a future date. All the children received a hand decorated gift bag with a variety of gifts from the parish. It was a beautiful ceremony and a wonderful way for the parish to celebrate these young people and their faith.

PSR: We have had a really fine start to our "Virtual" PSR! We are using the Gospel Weeklies program published by Pflaum. This program allows us to focus on the Gospel for each Sunday and draw out the message and the catechetical content according to the age level of the students. This also allows the parents to participate in this virtual experience without being

overwhelmed with “teaching”...each grade level has a teacher that also meets with them virtually. We decided to try something different and so we ZOOM with the entire group of students, catechists and parents every other Sunday during the original PSR class time of 10:30 on Sunday. This has been so great! We pray together, read the Gospel and share some reflections about the Gospel. This week we had a chance to speak about the great need for prayer in our world and how each of us has the power to pray for others and ask God to help them. So, so far so good with an entirely new way of doing PSR this year.

Confirmation: Initial packets of information have gone home to students and parents about many aspects of Confirmation. Tomorrow afternoon/evening (Oct. 13) we will participate in a Virtual Confirmation Retreat with NETministries. The students log onto the retreat from home, with their sponsor also logging on if possible. The teachers and I will also be logging on, I actually need to log on an hour early just to review things prior to the retreat. I have asked all the 8th graders to help us with feedback after the retreat just in case we all like this way of doing this better than what was previously done. We will be sending info home after the retreat about service for the students and other aspects of the preparation. Tomorrow (Oct. 12) at the parish staff meeting we will discuss what happens in the possible chance of things being shut down again for church due to the Covid-19 virus by the time of Confirmation---just want to be prepared as best we can be! **Parents expressed concerns about:**

- 4:00 start on a work day, making it difficult for parents to ensure attendance, or for sponsors to attend
- Short notice: Students were notified Friday, Oct. 9 of Oct. 13 retreat.
- Short preparation period: two months of preparation seems too short
- Principal noted these are impacted by Covid-19 (staff furlough, limited availability and scheduling issues with remote retreat hosts).