

St. Dominic Education Commission November 9, 2020

Attendance: Patrick Lahni, Mike Liderbach, Kim Luebbering, Mark Goins, Peter Gibbs, Joe Kruessel, Jessica Remmel

Absent: Bill Cavanaugh, Jessica Williams, Michael Stenger, Karen Brandstetter

- 1) Call to Order (7:00)
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Approval of October minutes
- 4) Old Business (7:05)
 - None (covered in Committee Reports)
- 5) New Business
 - Concern about teacher preparedness for remote learning
 - Suggest reaching out to staff to offer Ed Commission assistance with digitizing materials.
 - Kim to draft letter to distribute to staff
 - Encourage members to reach out to their children's teachers directly to offer assistance
 - Follow up with Bill to determine strategy for keeping teachers in contact with quarantined students.
- 6) Committee Reports (7:10)
 - **Faith Formation** (Brandstetter) - 5 min
 - See below
 - **PTO** (Korb or Hasselbeck) - no update
 - **School Strategic Plan** - 7:20 (60 min)
 - Academic Excellence (Peter)
 - Postponing foreign language, performing arts, science lab update Year 3 goals
 - Other goals being reviewed in collaboration with Jan McReynolds
 - Accreditation plan postponed one year per state
 - Decided to pursue annual high school readiness survey
 - Teacher Engagement (Jessica & Jessica)
 - Ed Commission members working on communication/survey to determine current teacher needs
 - Catholic Culture, Community & Family (Kim)...30 minutes
 - Critical Activity List Review - *Brainstorm substitute activities this year (entire commission) time sensitive*
 - Single-day Camp Kern - Kim
 - Virtual speech contest (recorded video)
 - Seder-to-go (celebrate at home)
 - Outdoor 8th grade musical
 - Spliced video caroling/ first grade - Kim
 - Drive in movie

- Modified Walkathon/Field Day
- Shared movie stream
- Helping Hands Outdoors: volunteering to do yard work for area seniors
- Orienteering/Geocaching
- Gardening club/volunteering (vegetable garden, parish landscaping, etc.)
- Thanksgiving food drive? - Peter
- Advent wreath build-at-home - Joe
- Job fair
- Shared advent activity (school advent calendar) - Kim
- Marketing & Communication (Mark & Joe)...30 minutes
 - School/Parish Website strategy
 - Survey sent to Ed Commission?
 - Clean up current site ASAP
 - Work on designing and building new site on new platform (will require some modest investment)
 - Leverage expertise on Ed Commission to design, build, maintain new site
 - Look into banners along Delhi (Marketing Committee)
- **Principal's Report** (Bill) - 8:20 (30 min) - **Not present**
- **Tuition Credit** (Lahni) - 5 min
 - Chipotle made \$300+, slightly below past performance
 - Pursuing Loaded Gyro

7) Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 14 at 7pm in school library.

8) Closing Prayer

9) Adjournment (9:00)

Faith Formation Report for Education Commission, 11/9/2020:

Important changes due to Covid-19: In an effort to try our best to avoid inviting folks, especially our children into potential health compromising situations, we have made some changes in upcoming dates and events.

-The First Reconciliation date has been moved to the end of January from the end of this month, so we are now scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th at 7 pm.

-We have also cancelled both the parish wide Advent Reconciliation Service which was scheduled for December 15th and the school wide Advent Reconciliation Service which was scheduled for November 30th. We will have classroom prayer services available for the teachers to use in the classroom with the children that will celebrate the loving forgiveness of our God for each of us.

-Confirmation has been postponed from Dec. 1st until February 4th. The archdiocese has left open the possibility of this date also being delayed depending on the status of the Coronavirus

as we get closer to the date. *(This also allows for more time to prepare for the Sacrament with the 8th graders)*

Confirmation “Virtual” Retreat: While I was somewhat dubious about how the students would respond to a retreat in this format, both the teachers and I were very pleasantly surprised at just how much the students appeared to get out of the experience. This was determined by their discussion in class about the retreat the next day and their answers to some specific questions that their religion teacher asked them to write up and hand in. Now, there were some glitches with this format---tech issues on the part of the host, NETMinistries---which they were able to deal with and fix. The students were fairly accommodating with the glitches and did attend to the options offered as if that was what had been planned all along. One of the “Pros” of this format is the chance for the students to answer some questions anonymously since they are not sitting right next to each other. One of the “Cons” of this format is a felt absence of the physical energy that can be built on throughout an in-person retreat. Given all options, I think we should go back to the in-person format as soon as that is a possible option for us.

Parent Preparation for Infant Baptism: While we have been offering infant baptisms, done on an individual basis, we have not been offering the usual in-person Parent Preparation Workshop. I am currently reviewing materials to put together a virtual alternative so that we can still bring our young parents “together” to meet each other and learn about the sacrament as well as ways to begin to pass their faith onto their children and some resources to support them in this lifelong faith journey with their children. Hopefully we can begin this virtual option in the very near future to support our young parents.