

Tri-Parish Education Committee Meeting Minutes
4/8/24 @ 6pm, Holy Rosary School Library

Committee Members Present: Father Emmanuel, Mary Lansing, Diane Wiess, Erik Reuter, Taylor Stewart, Benjamin Mitchell, Sarah Weber, Mary Zika, Father Zweber, Nancy Bechel

Meeting called to order by Erik at approximately 6pm

Opening Prayer by Father Emmanuel

Meeting Minutes from 11/13/23 and 2/19/24 meetings were approved

- Diane sought clarification on Religious Ed enrollment numbers: the 25 unregistered were not included in the ~160 enrolled as they have not yet submitted paperwork. Paperwork was sent home with students on more than one occasion but has not been returned.
- Religious Education & Evangelization Updates (Benjamin Mitchell)
 - First Communion prep: All attended the retreat last Saturday. SM & HR will be this Saturday, SH will be Sunday.
 - The last Family Faith Night will be 5/1 at HR. Attendance has been ~60% of registered religious ed students/families. Two events had ~115 attendees.
 - There are currently 3 high school interns who help with event set up, cooking food for Lifeteen events, etc.
 - Confirmation class on 4/24 at SH.
 - ~260 individuals have signed up to receive Religious Ed Flocknote communications.
- Director of Youth Ministry & Evangelization (Taylor Stewart)
 - There has been an adjustment to the Confirmation requirements whereby students must have their bulletins signed by the priest to prove they were at mass.
- Pastor Updates (Father Emmanuel & Father Zweber)
 - Parish census was sent out and needs to be returned ASAP. Parish will need volunteers to upload information into the computer system.
 - The Strategic Planning Committee will be moving forward with deciding about whether to become a part of the Wisconsin Private School Voucher Program.
 - If the Strategic Planning Committee decides against participating in the voucher program, Father Emmanuel wants to strengthen and expand the involvement of the Alumni group in an effort to improve finances and enrollment at the school.
 - Regis is very good at using alumni resources. St. Joe's in Menomonie participated in the voucher program; enrollment there is down. Cedarbrook will soon be establishing a school in Menomonie.
- ACS Updates (Mary Lansing)
 - IOWA test results, see handout. Most class results were in the average to above average categories; a few below average, specifically in math computation.
 - Tests that show an individual student struggling with a particular area would usually be addressed by a resource teacher. ACS does not have one currently.
 - Some confusion about the dates that appear at the top of the test results (Test Date: 11/5/18; Norms: Fall 2017).

- Discussion about how many private schools still use IOWA testing. Public schools used to use IOWA, then STAR testing, then Fastbridge. Unclear what is currently being used.
 - IOWA test results are used to pass out Presidential Awards to 8th graders who scored a 90th+ percentile in at least one of the composite scores.
- Awaiting 5th grade religious assessment results.
- Potential new social studies textbooks from Savvas were passed around for review. Nancy pointed out several instances where the textbooks taught information counter to Catholic teaching.
 - Anyone with more information about Catholic curriculum or Classical Curriculum should send it to Mary Lansing.
 - Father Zweber pointed out the library fund could be used to supplement current curriculum with Catholic/Classical influenced sources.
 - Discussion about the benefits/difficulties of implementing a Classical Curriculum.
- Sarah Weber provided an overview of what this year's WFV will entail.
- Upcoming 8th grade play, AGT: solo & ensemble performances, forensic performances, 3rd grade reports, 4th graders playing school song on recorders, etc.
- Upcoming interviews for open positions: 5th grade homeroom teacher, 7th grade homeroom and middle school social studies teacher.
 - Not posting for a resource teacher as there is a current part-time employee who may be interested in this.
 - Not posting for a 2nd grade teacher. This position is currently filled by a non-Catholic who is doing a good job and is happy to continue teaching. Sara Mack currently teaching Sacraments for 2nd grade. Discussion about importance of having a practicing, faithful Catholic teaching a Sacramental year.
- A link for interest in childcare/wraparound care will go out to 3K families. Impetus was former DHS Superintendent asking if ACS had the room for a daycare. Mary indicated ACS would not do daycare but may be able to provide school-aged wraparound care. Could potentially use the Religious Ed room as it has an exit to the outside for drop off/pick up.
- Open House went well. Ten new families showing interest.
- Mary discussed her attendance at accreditation meetings several weeks ago. Schools must be re-accredited on a multi-year basis--thorough look at details of operations, curriculum, teacher evaluations, parent interviews, etc. Based on her experience, Mary feels ACS is doing well.
- A parent who specializes in web design is reviewing the ACS website and will make recommendations about design, usability. This will be discussed further at the next H&S meeting, 5/1.
- Chairman Update (Erik Reuter)
 - Discussion about cost of tuition for parishioners vs. non-parishioners. Several people expressed they would like to see a smaller gap between the two. Currently, ~65% of enrolled families claim to be parishioners.
 - Finance Committee would like to remove the discount for multiple children enrolled.
 - Discussion about requiring service hours to reduce tuition costs. Discussion about requiring mass attendance for parishioners to receive tuition discount.
 - Erik and Mary will put information together for Father Zweber to take to the Finance Committee.

- Erik is working with Brittanie to complete the Welcome Folders to be presented at the next H&S meeting, 5/1.

Next meeting scheduled for ?

Closing Prayer by Father Emmanuel

Meeting adjourned by Erik at approximately 835pm