

## **Saint Thomas the Apostle Board of Education Minutes from the SPECIAL Meeting of the Board on Thursday, November 6, 2017**

This special meeting was initiated by the Diocese of Grand Rapids and held at Cathedral Square. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

This special meeting of the Board of Education was the first of its kind offered by the Diocese. The purpose of the meeting was:

- To inform the various school Boards of the progress made on the Bridging Faith and Future plan for Catholic Schools in the Diocese,
- To provide support and inform the Boards of pertinent changes:
  - from being Advisory Boards comprised of representatives of the general school population to becoming Boards of Limited Jurisdiction comprised of targeted skills and talents to support the schools in the 4 essential areas of : Mission Effectiveness, Academic Excellence, Governance and Operational Vitality
  - and on the attendant Board duties as Boards of Limited Jurisdiction with duties for: Strategic Planning, Formulation of Local School Policies, Evaluations of Effectiveness (in various areas including Board Operations, policies, plans , mission effectiveness and participation in the evaluation of the Principal), Oversight of Financial Operations, Oversight and Participation in Development Programs and Mission Effectiveness
- To offer networking, share of best practices, and offer information/guidance in smaller breakout sessions addressing the following topics: Development, Finance, Marketing, Mission Effectiveness, and Strategic Planning. Google groups to allow for further communication have been created on these topics and on the additional topics of admissions and for board chairs/presidents per a December 5 e-mail to Meeting attendees from Dave Faber, the Superintendent of Schools.

The meeting was attended by our administration: Suzi Furtwangler, Liz Peters, and Betsy Edgerton as well as by the following Board members: John Schuring, Matt Maczka, Christi Blum, George Sharpe, Jenni Little, Jessica Poelma, and James Leonard.

No regular, Saint Thomas specific Board business was conducted at this special Diocesan-wide meeting. The Board attended this special meeting in lieu of its regular monthly business meeting. The Board plans to hold a second special meeting to discuss strategic planning on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Proposed Schedule of Topics for the 2017-2017 Year**

August	-Retreat
September 14	-Facilities Planning discussion and Annual Goal Setting
October 13(W)	-Approval of Strategic Plan
November 9	-Diocesan Board Summit at Cathedral Square at 6:30
December 14(W)	-Proposed combined business and team building meeting
January 11	- Initial 2018-2019 Budget discussion
February 8	-
March 1	-
	-State of the School meetings for parents
April 12	-Approve 2018-2019 Budget
May 10	-Vote and welcome new officers and Board members
June 14	-Year-end wrap up