

Saint Thomas the Apostle Board of Education Minutes

October 13, 2022 (6:00pm to 7:15pm)

Opening Prayer

Partner Organization Reports

Foundation/Auction (Betsy Edgerton)

- The Celebrate! Auction and Picnic in the Park were highly successful with lots of good will and joy, joy, joy
- We met all our fundraising goals to raise at least \$260,000
 - Home and School – \$80,000
 - ESS – \$75,000
 - Tuition Angel – \$70,000
 - Enrichment – \$25,000
 - Parish -- \$10,000
- A more detailed report will be forthcoming

Home and School (Sarah Pfennig)

- Looking to get people back together with social activities
- Home and school is going to research pricing and possible suppliers for the school uniforms and will bring their finding to the board
- They are working on Donation Day (Spring Cleaning Day) in which people can bring bigger items for their homes to donate to teachers and their classrooms (such as rugs, toys and other teacher needs)

Minutes Approved – to be published on the school website

Principal/Assistant Principal Report (see online report for more details)

- Strategic Plan Update – Marygrace
 - Exploring academic achievement goals (especially looking at individual student growth, as per MAP testing scores)
 - Historically this this has been around 50% and she is suggesting the goal might be 60%
 - There was discussion that this goal should be higher
 - Teachers have expressed discomfort in the possibility that this might become “teaching to the test”
 - The desire for a test score metric seems to be parent driven (at least better understood by parents)
 - James Wilson suggested that another way to evaluate students would be through the use of project-based learning (outcomes or portfolio)

- This concept may be more fully embraced by teachers
 - Fully developing this model may take multiple years
 - It may also require more training for the teachers and staff
- There needs to be a balance between philosophical outcomes (portfolio) and concrete outcomes like test scores
- Catholic school educational outcomes and the way they are evaluated and expressed are different than those typically presented in the public school setting—this may need further reflection
- Strategies for growth
 - Allowing time for more teacher collaboration
 - A special focus on the group of students (high achievement, low growth as per MAP testing) may be an area for improvement
- Ryan and Marygrace will deliberate further on how the school can best evaluate student success (as per teachers and as per parents) so that it can be included in the strategic plan (ie. MAP score growth, project-based assessments, or a blending of the two approaches)

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds (Josh Szymanski)

- There is on-going discussion regarding the purchase of the parking lot next to the school on Grace ST

Boosters (Kyle Wohlgemuth)

- The board is requesting an update report for next meeting
- Ryan will work with Jeramiah Sluggett to ensure this is properly communicated

Board Deliberations

- Board Application—Annie Cicotte (Erin will be sending out her application electronically and will be asking for the board for approval status before next meeting)
- November 9, 2022 (6:30-8:00pm) is the Fall Diocesan Catholic School Board Summit and will be available in-person and virtually—board members are encouraged to participate (please let Erin know which session you will attend)

Concluding Prayer

Attendance

14 Voting Directors:

Chair, Erin Schmuker: Present

Vice Chair, Derek Damstra: Present

Secretary, Brian Hillary: Present

Building and Grounds Committee chair, Josh Szymanski: Present

Curriculum Committee chair (vacant)

Finance and Fiscal Development Committee chair, Liz Thoreson: Excused

Marketing Committee chair (vacant)

Mission Effectiveness Committee chair, James Wilson: Present

Policy & Planning Committee chair (vacant)

At Large Member, Michelle Anderson: Excused

At Large Member, Bill Fetterhoff: Excused

At Large Member, Suzi Furtwangler: Present

At Large Member, Mary Vonk: Present

Ex Officio Members and/or guests

Principal, Ryan Corcoran: Present

Assistant Principal, Marygrace Tyrrell: Present

Development & Outreach chair, Betsy Edgerton: Present

Financial, Carla Grant: Excused

Home and School, Sarah Pfennig: Present

School Board Meetings - 2nd Thursday of each month

November 10

No December

January 12

February 9

March 9

No April

May 11