

St. Luke School Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

In attendance: Andy Bauer, Matt Behringer, Andy Borland, Pat Crossin, Karen Dickinson, Nicole Duncan, Wendy Mehringer, Sue MacGill, Tim O'Brien, Eileen O'Brien-Metzger, Rob Shumaker, Steve Weber;

Excused: Charissa Osborne, Msgr. Schaedel, Michele Tillery

The April 10, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no dissent.

Principal's Report – Steve Weber

- **Staff Update:** There will be a few positions open due to retirement or moving, and a few that are undetermined at this time. Mrs. Wallace in grade 6 is moving to Fort Wayne over the summer. Mrs. Wales is retiring from kindergarten at the end of the year. Mrs. Isles, who is on maternity leave, has been offered a full time position but she has not decided what her plans are at this time. There are a couple of other possible changes, but they are still in process. Mrs. Daly, who currently shares the kindergarten position with Mrs. Wales will become the full time kindergarten teacher in K02.
- **Discipline Committee Update:** The committee is working to simplify and make more concise our discipline code. It has grown rather cumbersome over time. The language in faculty and family handbooks will use the same language.

We plan on adding a formal Citizenship/Conduct grade to the report card. Grades K-2 already have one and grades 7-8 added it for fourth quarter as a pilot. Grades K-3 will develop similar, but developmentally appropriate classroom systems and grades 4-8 will do the same. A final plan should be ready by the last meeting of the year.

- **Technology Committee Update:** We have added WIFI “airports” to all primary instructional spaces to improve connectivity. The actual hardware and infrastructure is in place to increase bandwidth as soon as the contract with Comcast takes effect on July 1. We have ordered twelve WYFI enabled laser printers to replace older, failing, hardwired units.

Teacher training is scheduled for both summer and fall sessions. We are working on finalizing the transition to 1 to 1 using iPads for grades 5 & 6 for the fall of 2014-15. The estimated cost will be about \$90,000. (140 ipads @ \$600 each = \$84,000 plus 6 in room charging stations @ \$1,000 each = \$6000. The committee hopes to finalize the plan after the faculty meeting this month.

- **Space Issue:** The good news is that enrollment will be up. The bad news is that the growth is not always balanced. Our current second grade will be up to at least 75 in third grade. The current room 302 is too small for that size of class. The buildings and grounds committee is looking at moving the copy room to the lower level and expanding into that space. However, there may be some code issues that are being researched right now. Best case is that we can expand that room over the summer and maintain as is. Worst case is that the current 402, which is a large classroom, would move to the current 302. Next year's fourth grade is the same size as the current third grade. Of course, that means that the rooms would have to flip again the following year, when the large class moves up to fourth.
- **Classical Catholic Education:** Parents had a presentation from Fr. Peter Stravinskis this past Sunday. While long on philosophy and background, he did explain the roots of this important topic. He met with the teachers on Monday and went over some of the same grounds and some curriculum implications.

As Msgr. Schaedel indicated in his notes to you and in his bulletin notes, this is an important topic to understand and review. He has asked me to look at how Latin may fit into our curriculum and what teachers are out there.

It is my recommendation that, as part of our strategic plan under BOTH Catholic identity and academic excellence that we do the following:

- 1) Identify and clearly articulate the components of a classical education are currently in place at St. Luke.
- 2) We identify which components we would like to add over time.
- 3) We plan and budget for any such changes.

Please understand that I do personally and professionally stand by my description of education at St. Luke as “progressively traditional”. I believe that maintaining and enhancing what our Catholic education tradition and plain good teaching has taught us is critical. I also believe that our children will learn, live and come to know God in the twenty-first Century and we need to prepare them for that world that God has given us. It is a “both and” opportunity, not an “either-or” situation.

President's Report – Andy Bauer

- Nominations for School Commission Candidates are in. Election upcoming.
- Principal's review. Commission members are to send forms to President to collect and combine.
- SGO breakfast was well-attended by St Luke families. The school received \$2000 for its SGO fund.

Strategic Planning – Sue MacGill

- **Facilities** pillar: **Approved** with changes to add School Commission Buildings and Grounds Rep as a responsible party and removal of last portion of Action Item 2.
- **Academic Excellence:** The pillar addressing academic excellence was discussed. Many changes were suggested, including the proposed incorporation of language suggested by Mr. Weber. The Strategic Planning Committee will make the discussed changes and distribute them to the Commission. The Commission will continue that discussion at the next meeting with the goal of voting on the issue at that time.

Committee/Liaison Reports

- Finance – Tim O'Brien –
 - Presented budget for 2014 – 2015 school year. The Commission voted unanimously to APPROVE the budget.
- Nominations – Rob Shumaker – Elections originally to be held during masses on May 10 and 11. There are 6 nominees for school family positions for 3 spots. There is one at-large nominee.
- Faith Formation – Matt Behringer – no meeting
- Buildings and Grounds – Pat Crossin – no meeting
- Stewardship – Fall Festival sign-up ongoing.
- PTO – Nicole Duncan
 - **K-3 Movie Night** featuring "Frozen" was a success on April 11th. 100 kids came.
 - **PTO Hot Dog Nite** will be held on June 25th.
 - **Teacher Innovative Grants** - Recently approved a grant for K-2 for Marian University students to come and teach Irish Folk Tales. Reviewing proposal for a document projector.
 - **Walkathon was supported by PTO.** Provided snacks for participants.
 - **PTO has adopted the Rosary Garden.**
 - **The PTO Board** for next year is being finalized.
- Pastoral Council – Eileen O'Brien-Metzger. – No meeting.
- SLAC – Andy Borland – no report.
- Parish Communications – no report.

Open Forum

School parent and parishioner Suzanne Sherby provided comments and suggestions on possible improvements to the school, especially in the area of curriculum:

- Wants a curriculum audit conducted to see better where we stand.
- Mrs. Sherby supports incorporating Latin into the curriculum and believes that there is room for improvement in the literature program, especially the teaching from whole texts.
- Mrs. Sherby on behalf of Mrs. Melbert expressed support for the proposition that St Luke have an outside consultant assess the school.

New Business

- Discussion was had concerning proposed changes to the commission operating documents. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Closing Prayer was said.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Borland, School Commission Secretary

Important Dates:

Next School Commission Meeting: Thursday May 29th, 2014 at 7pm

Next Executive Committee/Finance Meeting: May 20, 2014