

## St. Paul School Committee Minutes

June 12, 2017

**Present:** Matt DeMarais, Paul Graff, Chad Bartell, Ally Blonien, Jeff Bajczyk, Sherri Meyer, Cindy Robinson, Julie Pfeil, Rick Drolet, Cindy Gaudion, James Maloney, Jack Guebard, Barb Romanello

**Absent:** Pat Donahue, Alex Milovic, Fr. Dan

### Welcome and Introduction

**Old Business:** Role of School Committee is one of eyes and ears for the principal. The committee is an advisory committee only. Cindy Robinson our liaison to the pastoral committee spoke with Father Dan and he agrees our purpose is to advise the principal on matters with the school.

There was a discussion on whether people's feelings were hurt from last month's meeting. It was concluded that feelings were not hurt and having a constructive and honest dialogue is healthy. Members want to impact the school in a positive way and communication is good.

Ally Blonien is working on the closure of the school year and mapping out a plan for the 2017-18 school year.

**New Business:** Ally Blonien as new principal highlighted the enrollment numbers for next year giving us a total of 95 students (as June 12) for the 2017-18 school year. Last year's enrollment number was 107. She gave the committee a breakdown of all grades for 2016-17 and 2017-18. There are currently zero students enrolled in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Class combinations will be 3K, two 4K (with a possibility of 1 more half day class), 5K/1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>.

The school will be using the personal learning program of "SEEKERS" as outlined by Matt DeMarias in grades 4/5/6. Any parent who has concerns about this type of program should not hesitate to speak to either Matt or Ally. Matt reported this program is being used in our local public schools.

Ally Blonien reported Ms. Matyas is leaving because her fiancé has been transferred to FL. This leaves us with the 5K/1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher position. Ms. Blonien is currently dialoguing with teachers in order to staff the classes for next year. We have 5 full time teachers and 5 full day classrooms.

Working together to positively grow our school using our talents and strengths is our mission. Fr. Dan is very committed to St. Paul School. St. Paul Parish is also going through a time of revitalization. Each of us must work together.

**Marketing and Communication:** One criticism St. Paul keeps getting is about our communication. Are we timely? Who do we target? What about babies at Baptism – cards? There should be communication to families over the summer. More information on the “SEEKERS” should go out. St. James parish members should know about our school. Current families should be made aware of our enrollment numbers. Recruitment as well as retention are the key components for St. Paul. How do we go about all this?

Retaining our students needs to begin at the earliest of grades by promoting social activities that families can be engaged in and feel ownership. St. Paul needs to build community. This could also be accomplished through Parent Orientations.

**Golf Outing:** Our golf outing on July 17 has been cancelled due to lack of sponsors and golfers. This leaves the school budget with a \$40,000.00 deficit. The School Committee is looking at other ways of fundraising. We may be able to rebook a golf outing at an alternative date, as well as host an event geared for young families for community building like a small carnival. Thursday, July 15 the committee will meet to brainstorm ideas at 11:00.

**Members:** We say good-bye to Jeff Bajczyk, Cindy Gaudion, Pat Donahue, and Ed Brady who have served St. Paul well these past years.

Our current members are: Ally Blonien, Chad Bartell, Matt DeMarais, Rick Drolet, Paul Graff, Jack Guebard, James Maloney, Julie Pfeil, Cindy Robinson, Barb Romanello, and Fr. Dan Volkert.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Romanello