

Joint School Committee

December 12, 2016

Present: Jeff Bajczyk, Paul Graff, Chad Bartell, Erin Francisco, Rick Drolet, Cindy Guadion, Pat Donahue, Ben Holzem, Fr. Chuck, Rita Borowski, Barb Romanello

St. Bruno – 3 members

Absent: Ed Brady, Matt DeMarais, Cindy Robinson

Prayer: Fr. Chuck

Introductions by members present

Old Business: Mr. Holzem gave a rundown of past events. Town Hall meetings went well. St. Bruno is revising their technology plan. KM has a 1 to 1 ratio with devices and St. Bruno is working with Rescue Dog to establish this plan. KM charges \$40.00 for a Chrome Book each year and after 4 years it is the student's device. Home and School is continuing to meet jointly to plan activities. A Marketing Committee is being established at both schools. St. Bruno has met once and St. Paul will be meeting after the Christmas break. Mr. Milovic has agreed to head St. Paul's Marketing Committee. He comes with a marketing background and is employed by Marquette University as the Marketing head. It seems this is exactly what our school needs. Marketing Committee will be updating material and resources and their main concern is retention of students and getting the word out about our 2 schools. Writing grants is also on the table for the development and marketing committees.

The Town Hall meeting at St. Paul suggested the school offer the Safeguarding class which all volunteers need in order to volunteer to work with students. Amy Golden was asked to moderate this and 2 classes were held to accommodate both St. Bruno and St. Paul parents. The Town Hall meeting also called attention to the safety of the parking lot. A committee was created to form a plan. We are in the 2nd week of implementation and the flow of car and bus traffic is working.

Mr. Bartell: Guest and now new member asked to discuss the dual role of principal. He spoke about the good qualities of Mr. Holzem and is not referencing his skills. However, he feels that Mr. Holzem is not accessible to either school, full time. Mr. Bartell is solely speaking about his own thoughts; although, parents from the Afterschool Program have come to him regarding concerns. Having teachers pulled from class is not an efficient way of dealing with the issues that come up when principal is gone. Part time principal has part time results and is not a successful structure. Parents have been confiding in Mr. Bartell about possibly taking their children elsewhere. The Committee recognizes some of the difficulties involved with the split principal, but encourages those who have concerns to address them with Mr. Holzem personally. Mr. Bartell feels strongly about St. Paul, but feels each school deserves a full time principal. We are being complacent and in survival mode – not thriving. Yes we do have more of the populous in the K grades, but this should not discount the numbers growing in other grades. The committee’s response is there needs to be a period of transition and learning for Mr. Holzem and the two schools, and more than just 6 months. How do we evaluate – a survey, a forum, and/or town hall meetings? Making issues and concerns known in an actionable way is best and not just in generalities. If the school puts out a survey, are we putting doubts and questions in people’s minds? Change is tough and we need to be open minded.

Here are 4 priorities which need to be in place: Establishing a mentor program, Availability and Communication, Filling the open aide slot, and Addressing the “who” to fill in when principal is out.

There is an aide position available for the afternoons at St. Paul.

Our Secretary is new and doing a fantastic job. Tammy (St. Bruno) has come several times to help with training. Eventually, running the Power School may be Tammy’s role. Ben looks for positive advantages for the school: the Hispanic mass, Choice program, Home and School activities, and other joint /shared school opportunities.

New Business: Father Chuck will be taking a 6 month leave of absence and the Archdiocese has placed Father Dan as priest for the 2 parishes in Father Chuck's absence. Father Dan will begin this assignment on January 2, 2017.

Christmas Concert: St Paul's concert is Wednesday at 1:00 (dress rehearsal) and 6:30 P.M. St. Bruno's concert is Monday December 19.

Winter Carnival: This activity will be jointly held on January 29 at St. Bruno's to kick off Catholic Schools Week. This activity will include school tours, food, games, raffle and end with the Hispanic (this is what makes our schools stand out) Mass at 6:00.

Other scheduled activities: Father Daughter Dance and Mother Son activity and a Color Run (June).

School Committee Announcements: As part of communicating information to the families, our meeting nights should be announced prior to date. Putting the announcement in the Church bulletin, school newsletters, and on website is essential.

New Student: St. Paul has a new face in the 4K room. Her name is Kylie.

Other Parishes: Our local churches (without schools) hold catholic education in high regards. One way to boost enrollment is by having other students (alumni) witness during the masses.

Pastoral Council: Cindy Robinson, who was not present, sent the Pastoral Council update. The Parish is looking to increase parishioner engagement, review the long and short term strategy goals, and find ways for outreach to new families to receive information about their needs.

Welcome New Members: Erin Francisco, Rick Drolet, and Chad Bartell

Nest Meeting January 9, 7:00 P.M. at St. Bruno

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Romanello