

St. Bruno/St. Paul School Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday Feb 13th, 2017

7pm St Paul's Cafeteria

Attendees: St. Bruno: Ben Holzem, Juanita Gutbrod, Mary Taggett, Steve Kelchen, Mike Smith, Rebecca Ramage, Karen Hoffman, Jenny Harnack, Les Vertz

: St. Paul's: Ben Holzem, Cindy Gaudion, Cindy Robinson, Ed Brady, Jeff Bajczyk, Matt DeMarais, Pat Donahue, Paul Graff, James Maloney, and visitors Alex Milovic and Marisa Lengerich

A. Call to order at 7:06PM

B. Old Business

1. Catholic Schools Week; receptions were well received. St. Paul's made and distributed 409 fleece scarves to homeless people. Jump Rope for Heart was also a big success. St. Bruno's Winter Carnival and Innovation Fair was successful. St. Bruno's also recruited two new students from attendees of the Hispanic Mass. Tim Milbrath from St. Paul's marketing and Ellie Phillips, St Bruno alumni, spoke at masses. Discussion comparing and contrasting the St. Bruno Innovation Fair with the St. Paul's Science and Technology Fair ensued.
2. Ben Holzem confirms enrollment is growing at both schools. Hard work is paying off. All grades are represented in growth, although St. Paul's is adding far more students to the lower grades while St. Bruno's new members are divided more evenly among all grades. Ben anticipates exceeding expectations in growth. St. Paul's group discussed the possibility of adding a third 4K classroom. St. Bruno's anticipates adding at least 10 new students.
3. The joint school Field Trip to Discovery World worked very well. Both schools saved money by bussing together. Admission fees were covered for all students by budget and donations.
4. Parental inquiry about School Choice program prompted Ben to spend time explaining history of WI School Choice. He mentioned that Terri Brown, VP of the WI school Choice program has recently toured both schools and may be able to help promote our schools as unique to the Choice program due to our more rural location.
5. Ben mentioned that the Polish Community of Mukwonago as an untapped resource of prospective parish members and students.

C. New Business

1. Upcoming Fundraisers: St. Paul's Dinner Auction is later this month, then Fish Fries on 3/3 and 3/17. The latter fish fry is associated with St. Patrick's Day entertainment (fiddlers, Irish Dancers) and green beer, etc. Karen Hoffman of St. Bruno discussed the "Men Who Cook" St. Bruno auction happening on 4/1/17. There are already enough chefs signed up to reach the capacity of 23 tables. Working on donations.

D. Principal/Teacher's Report:

1. Juanita Gutbrod, the 3K/4K teacher, and lead teacher at St. Bruno's, spoke at length about the benefit that Mr. Holzem's leadership has brought to staff. Teachers report increased solidarity, positive feedback about new initiatives and staff in-services. Juanita feels that K3 families are looking for a "different education" and will respond to programs with a high level of family involvement. She has reviewed strategies to increase K3 and K4 enrollment such as her group parent education night, an alternative to individual student/parent conferences which seems to be helpful toward building parent-parent relationships.

E. Sub-Committee Reports: Marketing/Technology:

1. Tim Milbrath and Dr. Alex Milovic (school parents and parish members) are working towards building a phone app to reduce "email fatigue" to efficiency improve parent/staff communication. Dr. Milovic, an Asst. Marketing professor at Marquette, spoke at length explaining plans and goals for app development, asking for constructive feedback and reviewing goals for financing the app development. Initial estimates are \$1000 for initial investment followed by \$70 annual fee. Future goals (version "2.0") could involve Scrip and tuition payments. Goal is to remove work from the secretary/principal duties. Group agrees that a scrolling Marquee would be much more effective than advertisements in bulletin. Inquiry made about whether app maintenance should be paid position.

Dr. Alex Milovic contact info: alexander.milovic@marquette.edu c: 414-315-1600
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2. Spanish Language Teacher: Ben is looking to initially make this a part time position, approx. 20 hours weekly, with goal of moving towards full time in the future. Oconomowoc public schools expose middle school students to 4 languages and have students "declare" their language in 7th grade. French/Spanish/German/Mandarin are offered.

Group meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.