

## Joint School Committee Minutes

May 8, 2017

**Present:** Jeff Bajczyk, Pat Donahue, Ben Holzem, Cindy Gaudion, Cindy Robinson, Matt DeMarais, Paul Graff, Barb Romanello, Mary Taggett, Rebecca Ramage, Mike Smith, Jennifer Hamack, Les Vertz (the last 5 names being St. Bruno members)

**Absent:** Rick Drolet, Ed Brady, Chad Bartell, Jim Maloney, Julie Pfeil, Father Dan

**Member Status:** Jeff reported that Ed Brady and Chad Bartell expressed their decision to resign from the committee. Jeff will reach out to all members to get a firm count on membership for the next school year. Recruitment of members will continue. Our final meeting will be June and positions/roles for the next committee will be decided on in August. Discussions took place on combining committees to ensure talents are being utilized as best they can be; such as, Marketing and Home and School or Long Range Planning and School Committee.

### Principal's Report

**St. Bruno:** Mr. Holzem reported on St. Bruno's Enrollment with a projection of 105 students, 16 of those will be Parental Choice students.

8 students in 3K, 19- 4K, 5K/1<sup>st</sup> - 14, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> - 13, 4<sup>th</sup> - 15, 5<sup>th</sup> - 8, 6 - 15, 7<sup>th</sup> - 8, and 6 students in grade 8. Mr. Holzem reported St. Bruno will have a fulltime 4K (with 14 students) teacher and Juanita will continue to teach a split 3K/4K (combined 13 students) class. Grades 7 and 8 will be merged. Abundant Life daycare will be sending all of their children to St. Bruno's 4K program.

An article was written highlighting the Cartwright family, the tragic fire which destroyed the family home, and their enrollment in the WI School Choice program at St. Bruno.

The Outdoor Classroom received its final approval. Materials and labor have been donated. This is a great opportunity for hands on learning.

Plans are underway to move forward with the technology 1:1 ratio using Lenovo student laptops. Rescue Dog will continue to give tech support.

Contracts will be given after the Finance and Budget meeting on Tuesday, May 9. Mr. Holzem is planning for Spanish to meet two half days. Also there are plans to hire 2 additional teachers. Mr. Reeg is back after sick leave and feeling well. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades remain small at St. Bruno.

**St. Paul:** Mr. Holzem reported 5 students are enrolled for next year in the School Choice program.

20 students are currently enrolled in 3K, 53 – 4K, 11 – 5K, 2 – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 – 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 7<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 8<sup>th</sup>. These numbers represent students who have registered. Mr. Holzem’s projected 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will have 14 (status quo). A 3<sup>rd</sup> 4K class will be opened with 13 students. Because of the small enrollment in the Middle School, Mr. Holzem has combined the 3 classes into one using the “Personalized Learning” style of teaching. The Finance Committee, Sherri Meyer, Ben Holzem, and Father made the decision to reduce staff as reported by Mr. Holzem. The school budget had a deficit of \$35,000 and the budget would be reduced from \$250,000 to \$236,000 for the 2017-18 school year. This budget also includes the salary of the shared principal.

Mr. Holzem disclosed he has been in contact with Brenda White at the Archdiocese about the merging of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Discussions of this critical information rose between the committee members. Committee members found this difficult to grasp and questions as to why was the committee not informed, so together a plan could come to fruition? A comment was made the teachers were not informed nor were they asked their opinions about this decision and are not happy with this decision. This is not in the best interest of St. Paul. Building the enrollment at the bottom, but cutting off the top does not send a good message to the families coming up through the grades. There are many concerns about this decision. How do we move forward? How do we sell this merged class to families? How are we to define ourselves as we move forward? This definitely presents a challenging road ahead.

Pastoral Council was not involved with the budget and not informed of the situation to cut 2 teachers and merge three classes. The Council is pro Catholic Education and keeping the school open.

Lori Kaari, chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and Ben met over Easter break to discuss calling for a meeting. Mr. Holzem will begin this process by contacting all past members and recruiting new members. This committee has not met in over a year. We need to find ways to build up relationships with productive talks. The challenge is how do we get families to own their school?

The phone app still needs the okay to move forward. Leadership is questioning the viability of this and will continue to explore this technology piece.

Thirty synchronized clocks were installed at St. Paul in the first phase of the new clock and bell system.

**Pastoral Council:** They are currently discerning new membership. Currently the council has 30 nominees which members are contacting for a May decision. A Thank you Breakfast will be held June 4. In previous years it has been a dinner.

**Mr. Holzem's schedule:**

All Day Monday / Wednesday at St. Bruno and Friday PM

All Day Tuesday / Thursday at St. Paul and Friday AM

**Golf Outing:** July 17

Gina Rhodes is chairing this fundraiser and is in dire need of more involvement from families. Please consider helping out. This is singularly the main fund raiser for our school.

The next scheduled meeting is **June 12** at St. Paul.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Romanello