



NATIVITY^{of}MARY SCHOOL

Nativity of Mary School Advisory Council

Minutes from January 19, 2017

PRESENT Father Zehren, Mindy Reeder, John Polvony, Lydia Sokotu, Dan Riley, Kathy Daggett, Brian Comeau, Becky Egan, Laura DePoint, Holly Long, Virginia Downey, and John Aune.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Opening Prayer
- December 2016 Minutes Approved with no correction

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Budget Review: please see December year-end handout.

Tours/Visits/Phone Calls: 17 new potential families since October.

Curriculum: Students continue to dive into our new Science curriculum by National Geographic. Teachers are now weaving in Guided Reading lessons into their language arts experience for students, who books just right for the various groups of readers in their class.

Faith: Nativity of Mary adopted Virtues theme for this year. In January, we are focusing on "Solidarity." We as a school are united to caring for one another – we are all one family in the world.

Technology/STEM – Maker's Space:

- Middle School is creating our yearbooks
- 3rd Grade – STEM challenges

Staff:

- **Upcoming Workshop – January 30:** Standards based grading; sample of new School Information System; Guided Reading development; Technology training; Mental Health presentation

Licensing & Accreditation:

- **Parent Aware** –Finalizing teacher information for Develop to become Parent Aware.
- **K-8 Accreditation MNSAA** – All documents completed. Updates Strategic Plan on website.

Fundraising:

- **Read-A-Thon:** Raised about \$29,975 (funds still coming in) – Goal: \$40,000 (Last year reached \$30,000)
- **Annual Appeal/Nativity Angels:** December through end of June 2017. Targeted to families who supported the school through the Schulz Foundation grant. (Goal: \$50,000 at \$28,665 to date)
- **Tuition Gap Letter:** Targeted to families who paid in full in past. (Sent out)
- **Received \$5,000 Grant** for Safety (Bloomington)
- **Received \$10,000 Grant** for professional development/staff support.

Marketing:

- **Advertising:** Online continuing – twitter, Instagram and FB and Google ads. Fliers created for January Open House to be delivered to all parishes in area and extended churches/locations.
- **Direct Mail:** Sent to preschool/kindergarten data base for open house, postcard.

- **School-wide brochure:** Completed
- **Website:** In development
- **Alumni Mailing:** In development
- **Signage Needs:** Building & Street Sign (longer term) – in development
- **Faithful Beginnings:** Being finalized through CSCOE
 - Promotional items are being provided at no cost

TEACHER'S REPORT

- Catholic Schools Week 1/9/17-2/3/17
 - Sunday 1/29/17 Kick Off
 - Teachers attend mass
 - Book Fair opens
 - Open House
- 4th and 5th Grades sleep over at the Science Museum
 - Thursday 2/16/17 – leave school at 3pm
 - Friday 2/17/17 – return to school 10am
 - 8 parent chaperones
- Pennies for Patients
 - Smallest school to raise the most funds

2016-2017 Strategic Priority

- Lunch Program
 - Taher is requesting another visit
 - All Saints has their own program that includes a Lunch Director; will meet with Kate Barkow
 - Comparable to NOM in size.
 - Self-created and operated
 - Free/reduced lunch program is offered
 - Need a member of the Finance Committee to join the research
 - Need information to prepare for a vote in April; meet 5/1/17 deadline
- PTO
 - December wine & cheese was successful
 - 40-50 people attended
 - Survey results show that parents would like more adult events
- Safety
 - Meeting will be held 1/20/17
- Expansion
 - 2 bids are received and being analyzed
 - Will review with February agenda
 - Construction will occur over the summer
- Academic Focus Team
 - Will meet after registration

Spirit of Spring/Fund a Need Priorities

- Multiple vendors are needed
- 2 volunteers are handling the food/beverages
- Working with Greemans for games
- Strongly suggested by SAC to use a professional auctioneer
 - 1 referral will be forwarded to the SOS Committee
- 19 volunteers so far
- Goals/Theme
 - Cutting Costs
 - Later event
 - Vegas Night Theme
- Katie (new volunteer director) is helping coordinate
- Attempting to have vendors sponsor part of the service or table
- Need to establish a system
 - Certain grades are responsible for each fundraiser
- Need to engage the parish
- Amazon Smile was discussed; need to promote this fundraising opportunity to the NOM community

School Budget/Tuition for 2017-2018

- Given the changes in the multifamily discount the SAC agreed to eliminate the \$500 new student discount and replace it with a one-time new family \$500 discount
- The school will maintain a \$100 full payment discount if paid by cash or check
- SAC to review the referral program at our next meeting
- Research platforms for online payment options will be presented at the February meeting

Youth Enrichment League

- Based in Carver, MN
- Offers after school program in the Spring
- All Saints has success with this program
- Fee based program with a variety of options
- YEL provides staff and there is no commitment fee or initial investment required
- SAC agreed to try it and agree that offering additional programs at the school is appealing
- Also will inquire with The Works to see they have on-site programs to offer

Meeting Adjourned

Next SAC meeting will be on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00 am