



NATIVITY^{of}MARY SCHOOL

Nativity of Mary School Advisory Council

Minutes from September 15, 2016 Meeting

Present: Father Zehren, Mindy Reeder, Laura DePoint, Jeff Giles, Lydia Sokoto, Brian Comeau, Jody Lazo, Susie Valentine, Virginia Downey, Holly Long and Kathy Daggett.

Administrative

- Opening Prayer
- August 2016 Minutes Approved with 1 correction

Discussion Topics/Updates

Principal's Report

Enrollment: Preschool: 2 Day – 16; 3 Day – 18; 5 Day – 21 (Goal: 60 by August)

K-30; 1-25; 2 – 38; 3 – 36; 4 – 32; 5 – 32; 6 – 27; 7 – 30; 8 – 27 **Total:** 332 (August 2015 – 309)

Goal for 2016: 330 (surpassed!) Goal for next five years: 400

Curriculum: All materials here, including new Science curriculum, National Geographic, online learning programs, new FAST assessment (setting up), and Guided Reading set by Benchmark. Began FAST assessments in Grade 2 this week, going well.

Faith: Nativity of Mary adopting “Virtues” for year of 2016-17 as part of our theme for the year. September focus in importance of family and caring for our family. Reading daily Bible verses.

Technology/STEM – Maker's Space:

- Chromebook parent trainings: 4-5th Grades September 15 (if haven't already)
- Created a STEM ROOM/MAKER'S SPACE in Computer Lab
- Added more engineering standards to science this year

Staff:

- **Fall Workshops:** Technology; Assessment; PLC outline
- **Meeting with grade level teams:** PLCs groups in science and language arts start this month.

Licensing & Accreditation:

- Preschool Licensed!
 - Parent Aware – families can get scholarships (coming soon!)
- K-8 Accreditation MNSAA – Final documents due December 15, 2016 for updates to our Strategic Plan and other follow up reports.

Marketing:

- **Advertising:** Back to School *Sun Current*; Partnerships – exercise clubs and student clubs; Fall events and mailing; Heritage Days; Online continuing – twitter, Instagram and FB.
- **School-wide brochure:** In development
- **Website:** In development
- **Annual Report & Alumni Mailing:** In development
- **Heritage Days:** Sept. 16 & 17
- **Signage Needs:** Building & Street Sign (longer term)
- Marketing Grant Request: CSCOE granted Nativity 5,000 towards marketing

Budget/Fundraising: Budget set for small positive outcome based on new fundraiser and support from parishioners and alumni in the form of an “Annual Appeal.” Should get out this fall.

Increased Enrollment – what is the “secret to the sauce?”

- Power of Prayer
- Negativity in public schools and competitive Catholic Schools will cause families to look.
- Marketing
- Parent word of mouth.
- Opportunities
 - Integrate PreK with their families in school and activities.
 - Perform in Christmas Concert.
 - Become parent aware.
 - Become part of Faithful Beginnings.

Teacher’s Report

- Positive response to Responsive Classroom from students and teachers.
 - Closing circle helps transition for end of the day.
 - Morning meeting creates community.
- Positive response to Maker’s Space.
- Positive response to Quiet time.
 - After lunch.
 - 3 choices; no electronics allowed
- Launching a New Year; teachers and SAC agree to keep presentation within timeline in order to keep allotted time for teacher/parent segment.
- Teachers and students enjoyed Spirit Day in lieu of out-of-uniform on the first Friday of the month.
 - Flyer is prepared for parents to show how many out-of-uniform opportunities are in the school year.

PTO Bylaws

- SAC members agreed made live edits.
- Mindy will finalize edits and distribute electronically.

School Expansion

- Need physical expansion on campus to expand PreK program.
- Will need to move different grades to create enough space.
 - 3 new classrooms are needed.

- Various options have been researched considering:
 - Use of Creative Space
 - Would require elevator.
 - Not part of the rest of the school.
 - Corridor across campus from entrance to gym.
 - Costs entirely too much.
 - Room for 3 classrooms in cafeteria.
 - PreK may not be allowed below ground/grade.
 - Most cost effective option researched at this point.
- Will be presented to teachers for input, concerns and further suggestions.
- Physical expansion must happen; need to determine cost effective, legal, and most amicable option in order to build PreK and feed future grades.

Unable to review remaining items due to time constraints.

Meeting Adjourned

Next SAC meeting will be on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:00 am