

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD**

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools Board to establish policy for the local Catholic school community that ensures gospel-based formation and learning for all students.

Catholic Schools Board Goals

1. Promote the Catholic identity/character of the schools.
2. Build and strengthen relationships with pastors, administrators, and local boards of education/school boards.
3. Advocate for strong and viable Catholic schools through marketing, recruitment, and connection with policy makers.
4. Promote diversity, in its many forms, among Catholic Schools Board membership, its committees, and the schools' employees.
5. Support student recruitment and enrollment efforts among the Immigrant, refugee, and minority populations.
6. Continue to support further investigation around school finance to assist the various aspects of school finance.

DATE: November 13, 2017
PLACE: Holy Family School, Des Moines
PRAYER: Dr. Tracy Bonday

MINUTES

I. OPENING ACTIVITIES

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.
- B. Roll Call:
 - Members Present: Beth Schulte, Clark Smith, Deacon Chan, Leslie Wurster, Gloria Castellano, Nicole Proesch, Fr. Kautzky
 - Schools Office Members Present: Dr. Tracy Bonday, Denise Mulcahy
 - Guests: Marty Flaherty
- C. Prayer: Dr. Bonday led prayer
- D. Call for Additional Agenda Items: No additional agenda items were mentioned
- E. Approval of the Agenda: Clark Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Nicole Proesch seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- F. Approval of September Meeting Minutes: Gloria Castellano made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as presented. Clark Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

II. Open Forum

There were no open forum guests or issues.

III. **Welcome/Introduction to Holy Family School**

Principal Marty Flaherty welcomed the board, introduced himself and the school to the board.

- This is Marty's 10th year as principal at Holy Family School.
- The school is consolidated and has five parishes that feed into the school.
- During the 1980s-1990s the school was suffering and Fr. Tom Pfeffer met with others to devise a plan to keep the school open. The Holy Family Inner City School Foundation was started at that time.
- Holy Family School is the most diverse school, public or non-public school, in the state of Iowa. 54% of the students are ELL and there are 2 full-time ELL teachers on staff at Holy Family. The greatest need the student at Holy Family have is for language acquisition.
- What separates this school from all others is the sense that this is a "Holy Family" and the students and teachers know and sense this.
- Parents at the school work hard. They do not want charity but want opportunities for their children to have better than they do.
- The school operates on a year-round calendar and this has worked well for the students' growth. Through a capital campaign, the school was expanded and funding was set in place to expand the school year to include 15 more days for the students. The school calendar is 193 days.
- There are 241 students, PreK-8th grade with Latino as the largest population.
- There is a strong refugee population, primarily from the Cathedral.
- This year 23/24 students will go to Dowling Catholic High School.
- QUESTION: What kind of support do you see from the parishes? As demographics change, the parish assessments have changed. Parishes offer support the best they can.
- QUESTION: What fundraisers do you do? Barn-bash is largest, Golf tournament, Annual Appeal
- QUESTION: Is there a classroom cap? 25 students is the cap. Some classes have a waiting list and in other classes there are a few open seats.
- QUESTION: Is there busing available? No, parents bring their students to school each day. There is a Dowling bus that picks up Holy Family students here.
- QUESTION: How many students receive CTO? 84% of the students receive assistance through CTO. This takes much work and conversation with the business manager to get forms completed on time and turned in with the right information.

Marty finished his introduction by letting the board know how rich Holy Family School is because it is a place where students and staff are happy.

Further discussion with the board focused on funding formulas. Some parishes are looking for new funding formulas. There is a hope the strategic plan work can help to focus this work.

Board members also asked about enrollment as a diocese. As a whole, the diocese is down in students. Some schools lose students during the middle school years; however, some schools gain students from public schools at this time because parents want to send them to Dowling.

IV. **Action Items**

A. Discussion: New Members

Dr. Bonday attempted to follow up on some of the names she had been given by members for potential new members. She presented two names to the board for consideration. After reading the biographies from two people who expressed interest in serving, Margarita Pizano made a motion to recommend to Bishop Pates Andrea Cook and Celia Shed as Diocesan Schools Board candidates. Clark Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Dr. Bonday will share the names and bios with Bishop Pates.

V. **Reports**

A. Superintendent:

- Dr. Bonday and Bishop Pates will meet with the Meitler firm regarding strategic planning on Tuesday, November 21. Jerry Degan will serve as the chair of the strategic planning process.

There is hope the strategic planning process will serve to assist in looking at different funding formulas. There are some schools facing significant financial challenges. The strategic plan will be a 12-18 month process.

- The Shelby County Catholic School principal resigned. The former principal, Ann Andersen will be finishing the year.
- The first system-wide meeting for AdvancEd on Tuesday, November 7. The team will meet again on November 27.
- A team is being formed to begin to think about system-wide assessments, such as Title I or summative assessments. We need to think about what meets our needs without a price tag that puts it out of reach of many schools.

B. Director of Teaching and Learning:

- Denise Mulcahy facilitated the SWOT analysis at several schools. Teachers participated in good discussions and asked many questions about moving forward.
- Denise Mulcahy has been in many of the schools, spending time in classrooms and talking with teachers. New Teacher training modules have been created and shared with principals to use in the schools as a part of the mentoring and induction work.
- End of the first trimester will come in mid-November. Report cards will go home at the elementary level.

C. Board Chair: Beth Schulte reminded everyone the January meeting will be held at a school and details with location will be shared. Nicole Proesch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50PM. Beth Schulte seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM.