

St. Ann Catholic School Council Minutes
February 4, 2021

In attendance: Fr. Craig Maxim, Mark Clifft, Michael Lisson, Jennifer Schafer, Lisa Stuart, Liz Minks, Nancy Wilkerson, Christine Lemmon, Josh Williams

Absent: Shawn Creger

- I. Prayer: Fr. Craig Maxim
- II. Pastor's Report: Fr. Craig Maxim
Many funerals which is keeping everyone very busy.
8th Grade Confirmation retreat last weekend. Confirmation is March 1.
Looking for best way to continue with 1st Communion in the Spring.
Cindy Schultz has been hired to work part-time as the Parish Office receptionist.
Leah Nguyen is taking over Confirmation program.
Conducting interviews for a Youth Director and will be making an offer soon.
Have received a lot of emails regarding 2nd Grade for next year. It is not a financial issue rather it is a space issue. The space needed is being used for programs that many grades use, so to take it away would affect the whole school.
We are going forward with hiring two full-time instructional assistants.
- III. Principal's Report: Mrs. Liz Minks
Liz added that when looking at the big picture she is confident that this will work.
The aides that we have are really qualified and will seek that in the new hires.
Jennifer Schafer adds that from a teacher point of view having a full-time teacher aide is very valuable to a teacher.
Lisa asked about making a classroom switch at least to larger classrooms. Would give more physical space for these larger classes. Big deal to have teachers move classroom but could help to manage kids. Also brought up the COVID concerns.
What if social distance is required next year?
Liz spoke to Health Department and they are hopeful we will be back to PRE COVID-policies by the Fall.
Josh asked if she has consulted the current 2nd grade teachers? Liz said they have.
Liz said a class of this size is actually not uncommon. She has consulted a friend at Sacred Heart who has this size classes. She confirms that it is doable.
Nancy suggests that they use specials to spread the class out and try to get them out of the classroom as much as possible.
- IV. Mrs. Christine Lemmon | Technology Teacher: Discussed Digital Citizenship. Liz invited her to follow up on the Social Dilemma conversation from last meeting. We want to make it clear to the kids how to deal with the impact of the devices, since it is clear to all that it is always in their hand. She used "Common Sense Education" program to pull the core topics of digital citizenship for K-12. She is only going up to

- 6th right now. They need to discuss how to continue to reach 7th and 8th. Here are some of the core topics: Media Outlet, Privacy and Security, Cyber Bullying, Digital Footprint, Relationship and Communications. Digital discussions happen once a quarter. Want to empower parents and let them know this is being addressed. Nancy suggests that we celebrate this in a more shared way. Let's get the word out that we are addressing this and parents can access this digital discussion. We need to bring it the forefront like the system has done with Bullying.
- V. Cogna Parent panel information: Eric White is the head of the accreditation team. He will be asking some parents to participate in the parent survey. Some questions that can be expected: How do you know your student is improving? What words would you use to describe the St. Ann community? How would you describe the culture at St. Ann? Etc.
 - VI. 9th grade surveys: This survey is typically sent out about this time of year. Liz reported that she has been able to collect some scores from the entrance exams of our students to high schools. These are very helpful because they show how our kids are measuring up to the level of kids from other schools. Rockhurst was very helpful. St. Ann students tested at about 70% and that is above the 64% average. This is good indications that our kids are well prepared.
 - VII. Slate for next year: Liz asked people to think of possible people for the slate. Shawn and Lisa are rolling off. Please bring names to next meeting. Liz and Fr. Craig will make selections.
 - VIII. Jennifer Schafer reported on Catholic Schools week-the committee come up with some neat things! They were forced by COVID to get creative and she is seeing many cool things that could very well become NEW TRADITIONS! They have really hit the refresh button. Kind of a metaphor for life... often make great discoveries when you are faced with the need.
 - IX. Mike commented on the importance of Student Council to give kids a voice. Liz confirmed there are 7 and 8 grade as Reps. Have not been as active this year due to COVID. She welcomes hearing the voice of the kids if they have a request for change. She will always run it by the staff and see how they feel about it. We need to have a process for consistency.
 - X. Concluding prayer

Next meeting: April 8, 2021

** No meeting in March due to the accreditation visit, and the April meeting will be pushed to the second Thursday of the month because Holy Thursday falls on the first Thursday.