

St. Columban Parish – Education Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

7:00PM

Call to order: Matt Sokany 7:01

Opening Prayer: Matt Sokany

Attending: Jo Rhoten, Joe Crachiolo, Andrea Flagg, Katie Marshall, Jenn Stacey, Jim Bush, Jim Whicker, Linda Hanzel, Chris Newton, Matt Sokany, Nick Warnecke, Nick Berning

Approval of September Minutes: Approved via email

Background of Student Enrichment/Development: Jo Rhoten

-Accreditation goals drive what we do in our classrooms and in terms of student development

-Model School Conference (2007): Mrs. Ellerbrock and Mrs. Rhoten attended a conference on critical thinking. It proposed changing how you question students. Rigor/relevance framework. Once implemented, the first 2 years were spent working on knowledge (rigor). The second two years were focused on relevance (application of information). This process promotes higher level thinking. Learning is more about critical thinking rather than memorization. Focus on real world situations to apply knowledge.

-They focused this process around math. All teachers were challenged to incorporate math into their curriculum. The end result was that math scores at St. Columban went up.

-St. Columban recently implemented Star 360 which is similar to the AIMS/WEB screening process used in the past.

-Every child is screened at St. Columban in the fall, winter and spring.

-The test is used to make sure that all St. Columban children are at a benchmark level and then they use those scores to determine which child might benefit from additional services and what kind of services to apply. Additional services could be intervention, Title 1, and use of teachers' aides.

-The goal is to see ALL children grow and progress.

-St. Columban does have an enrichment teacher in the building 3 days a week.

-Public schools typically use an IQ number to determine which children would qualify for their gifted programs. St. Columban does not use that criteria.

-At St. Columban, teachers determine which children could benefit from the specific enrichment project being offered. It is a fluid process. Different kids are in enrichment programs for varying lengths of time.

-The enrichment programs are available for children in grades 2-6. Junior High does not use the enrichment services as those children are already divided into ability based levels.

-Question: could we bring in outside resources to help the teachers with creating enrichment opportunities for top performing kids?

-For our next meeting, we are encouraged to bring in specific examples of opportunities for enrichment that we could bring to Mrs. Rhoten for review/thought. Again, enrichment topics discussed were different foreign language opportunities, enrichment programs for teachers and ideas for drug/alcohol education.

Technology Update: Linda Hanzel

-Mrs. Hanzel reached out to teachers and received at least 1 response from each grade level.

- In general, the teachers felt that they had sufficient hardware in the classrooms.

-The overwhelming response was the need/request for a full time information technology person.

-They felt that, in general, the topic of education software is too broad and overwhelming to research thoroughly. There are many computer programs and applications that kids could benefit from, but no individual teacher has the time investigate all of the available options.

-Currently, Mrs. Stoffolano is working as an information technology person one day a week. If we could get a full time person, their role could possibly expand beyond the classroom into other opportunities such as coding.

-Matt offered to set up a meeting with a contact at Summit Country Day to talk about their technology program.

Updates on Vision 2021 and School Funding Task Force: Matt Sokany, Katie Marshall, Nick Warnecke

-Question: what does the structure of the faculty need to be in the future? If schools are heading towards computer learning, shouldn't the staff skills support that?

-Vision 2021: vibrant, faith based community. 10 different goal areas.

-Currently, Vision 2021 has identified 10 different goal areas. Some examples include facilities, technology, enrollment, parish support of school and volunteerism. The teams are trying to prioritize those goals and possibly limit them to 3.

- Part of the discussion has led to what kind of school we want St. Columban to be in the future.
- Matt has offered that Education Commission work up a technology plan to present to the Vision 2021 team. Ultimately, it is the implementation team of the 2021 Vision group who would approve any future funding.
- All Vision 2021 teams are meeting together in November.
- The group is also working on a statement to parents summarizing the survey results.
- The goals of the School Funding Task Force are to make recommendations to finance counsel about future tuition, look at ways to enhance faculty compensation and enhance safety.
- 6 proposed budgets were brought to their last meeting
- It is possible that the guidelines created by the SFTF are for this year only. Education is changing too rapidly.
- Mrs. Rhoten brought budget numbers to the SFTF's last meeting. There is a budget shortfall.
- It is clear that additional sources of revenue need identified beyond tuition and parish subsidy.
- For the school year, 20/21, the parish will subsidize the school almost \$400,000.
- Teacher salaries were raised for this year.
- The goal would be to get teachers back to top tier of compensation.
- St. Columban tuition is currently one of the highest in the areas.
- All diocesan schools are losing enrollment.
- The SFTF is still working on a tuition number. Understanding that the more we raise tuition the greater the risk of losing enrollment.
- The SFTF will meet again on 10/21

Updates:

- **Jo Rhoten: School**
 - Grandparents Day was on Friday, 9/27. It was a huge success. There were approximately 450-500 grandparents in the building.
 - Stephen Smith, founder of A Wired Family, will do a presentation to St. Columban families on Tuesday, 10/8. It is designed to help parents stay up to date with technology and how kids may be using it.
 - 10/14 is a teacher in service day.
- **Jenn Stacey: PTO**
 - Fundraiser is currently in progress. Amazing teacher and administration support.
 - The school met their sales goal of 3500 tickets on 10/1.

- In order to incentivize future sales, if a 4000 ticket sale goal is met, the PTO will purchase a Gaga pit for the school's use
 - PTO will be selling tickets at this week's Donut Sunday and Wine and Cheese Saturday.
 - The PTO has discussed adding additional board positions.
 - Trunk or Treat is Saturday, 10/26. They are partnering with the Knights of Columbus. This event historically has a great turn out.
 - There is a run, hide, fight presentation for parent volunteers on 10/17
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- **Jim Bush: Parish Counsel**
 - IHN is looking for volunteers to help with the hosting of families in October.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2019

Closing Prayer: Katie Marshall

Ending: 8:36