

**SMOTH School Commission**  
**5/14/2012**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Parish Hall**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mary Davis, Rhee Fincher, Carol Fuller, Steve Hagler, Joe McBride, Fr. Jerry Ragan, John Strelec, Charles Whatley

**Absent:** Tony Ramage, Ruth Ann Vericella, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Catherine Bedenbaugh

**Principal's Update - Joe McBride**

- SACS reaffirmation site visit went well; SACS will send its final report following their next meeting (June). End-of-site visit recommendations included enhancing the technology for tracking students' performance; there were no major concerns. The SMA action plan is focused on math (adding "simple solutions" online and book-based; eliminating "integrated math" to ensure congruence with Aquinas program), phonics, reading, writing, word analysis; students' portfolio with writing samples (evaluation).
- Staffing for AY 2013
  - Departing
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher – staying home
    - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher – retiring
    - Music teacher moving to Waynesboro (to enable her to retire with health benefits)
    - School nurse – retiring
  - Joe is actively seeking replacements for all of the departing faculty and staff
  - Assistant principal
    - 6 candidates interviewed – Joe will meet with final candidate tomorrow; has been principal of 2 Catholic schools in ID (finance at Fort Gordon)

**Fr. Jerry's Update**

- Discussion about growth/lack of growth of the school
  - Fr. Jerry prefers concept of parish school (non-Catholics and Catholics from other parishes are welcome)
  - Not growing (average class size = 45 students) raising question of whether to continue with 3 classes in each grade or reduce to two
  - Need to decide the percentage of non-Catholics we could have and still retain our Catholic identity; vast majority of students are from SMOTH
  - If IC closes, SMS would welcome diversity and especially welcome Catholic children from IC first

**Focused topic – Marketing**

- Print promotion
  - Marianite – include section that focuses on facts and stories about individuals; dual accreditation
  - Bulletin – seem to be some political issues related to marketing
  - Re-do website – scheduled to be running by mid-summer

- Target efforts on families with children who are in CCD
  - Consider social event for CCD parents with SMS parents during CCD
  - How to enhance one-on-one marketing by parents who have chosen SMS with parents with children in CCD
    - Ask SMS families to talk with CCD families about school
  - Survey CCD parents about why they chose the school they chose
- More facts for parishioners about school so they can market
- Market elimination of one-year tuition requirement
- VBS – Joe McBride running VBS and will market
- Sat night middle school youth group – identify welcoming groups to bring children in
- Priests' roles
  - Proactive articles in Marianite – importance of Catholic formation through school
  - Children speak before Mass
  - Children sing before some Masses
- Explore collaboration/partnership with Notre Dame and ASU

A meeting date for June will be selected; at the June meeting, we will decide whether to meet in July and/or August.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher  
Chair