

SMOTH School Commission
12/11/2012
5:00 PM
Parish Conference Room/Parish Hall
Draft Minutes

Attendees: Mary Davis, Fr. Jerry, Rhee Fincher, Carol Fuller, Steve Hagler, Theresa McArdle, Mary Beth Mitchell, Tony Ramage, Ruth Ann Vericella, Charles Whatley

Excused: Kyle McArdle, Theresa McArdle

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM with prayer by Fr. Jerry.

Fr. Jerry's brief update

- John Sherer is chair of the 100th anniversary of Catholic education on the Hill committee. The committee is beginning to make plans for anniversary celebrations.

Tuition recommendations for FY 2014 – Presented by Joe McBride; developed with with Dori Thorstad

- Background: Tuition for FY 2013 was increased by 4% from FY 2012 (tuition is currently \$6350 for non-stewardship Catholic families with no multi-child discount.
- Recommendations to School Commission for FY 2014
 - Maintain tuition registration rates the same for FY2014, which would be:

Catholic Tuition	\$6,350
Non-Catholic Tuition	\$7,800
Registration per child	\$ 300

- Institute tuition discounts for families with more than one child, as follows:

	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Non-Catholic</u>
1 st full price	\$6350.00	\$ 7800
2 nd 15% discount	\$5397.50	\$ 6630
3 rd 25% discount	\$4762.50	\$ 5850
4 th 35% discount	\$4127.50	\$ 5070

- Discussion included
 - As part of our overall marketing strategy, concentrate on increasing enrollment for FY 2014, without the confounding factor of concurrent increase in tuition.
 - Historically SMS has increased tuition about every other year; plan to recommend a tuition increase for FY 2015 in keeping with precedent of frequent small increments, rather than infrequent larger increments.
 - Enrollment goal: 10-15 additional children for FY 2014
- Action: After discussion, the recommendations as stated above passed unanimously.

Meeting with Finance Commission (5:30-5:45 PM)

- At 5:30 PM, the School Commission met with the Finance Commission. Rhee Fincher presented the recommendations to maintain tuition/fees for FY 2014 at the FY 2013 level, and to

implement a multi-child discount (as above). Discussion included the fact that there are potentially 65-70 new kindergarten children/year for the near future. This is decreased from 120/year in the past. As such, we need to attract more families from other parishes to attend SMS. After discussion, the recommendation passed unanimously

Resumption of School Commission meeting (5:45 PM – Rhee had to leave; Mary Beth completed minutes)

Marketing Strategies – Follow-up CCD meeting (12/2/2012)

- Transportation – Strong support for attempting to provide bus transportation for children from Columbia County. Considerations include:
 - Plan A: Share EDS bus (SMS would pay fair share), Aquinas families are currently charged \$200/quarter for bus
 - Plan B: Share bus with Aquinas (after bus repairs and painting).
 - Joe will meet with Shannon Williams (Aquinas interim principal), and then with Ned Murray (EDS principal).
 - Suggestion about approaching bishop to help improve transportation if local solution is not found
 - Consider SMS renting/buying small bus to pilot transportation concept
- St. Theresa's is one to pursue for potential school children. Joe will speak with Fr. Jerry about this when they meet next week.
- We need to foster an even stronger presence within our own parish by:
 - Having students, once a month, making announcements before Mass. Mr. McBride will meet with Fr. Jerry next week to confirm dates; Fr. Jerry confirmed he supports this active and will help ensure it occurs.
 - Having a stronger presence in the parish bulletin. Mary Beth offered to send weekly updates for inclusion in the bulletin (a shortened version of what she sends out on Fridays). Fr. Jerry agreed that he would like the school represented regularly and more extensively in the bulletin. This is a significant part of our outreach to SMOTH.

Death announcement

- Joe announced that one of the beloved SMS teachers, Ms Cato, died yesterday after a long illness. Recommendation made for a feature article in the Marianite about her life and contributions, including interviews with school children and parents
- Services: Visitation Thursday, 12/13 at Platts on Belair Road; funeral Mass Friday, 9:15, SMOTH

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher, Chair