

SMOTH School Commission
12/17/2013
5:00-6:30 PM (Parish Hall)
Minutes (Draft 1) - REVISED

Attendees: Rhee Fincher, Joe McBride, Mary Beth Mitchell, Ruth Ann Vericella, Charles Whatley

Excused: Bequi Coar, Steve Hagler, Mike O'Neill, Sarah O'Neill

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM with prayer led by Joe McBride. The minutes of the 11/25/2013 meeting were approved.

Principal's Update

- End of first semester, second quarter –going well
- Congratulations to Aquinas for winning the state football championship
- I-pads being used daily in classrooms
- Registration fee – Finance Commission approved fee of \$300/student for first student at SMS and a discount of 15, 25, and 30% for each additional child
- Common Core (national) is not being implemented at SMS. It is one of many factors considered when re-writing curriculum. These factors include state and national standards, prior Diocesan curriculum, standards from National Councils in the curricular area of focus.

Recommendations for School Commission membership for AY 2015 – Aim for 9 members

- Felicia Schneider – Lead MDO teacher
- Michael Lammers – Youth minister
- Maureen Lewis – Aquinas principal
- Alicia Ramage – Welcome committee for PTO
- Dennis Welch – SMS school parent
- Kim Welsh – SMS school parent
- Matt or Melissa Johnson – SMS school parents
- Joe Mitchell - SMS school parents
- Kyle McArdle
- Shawn Burke – Marketing Committee?
- Chris Sweeney - SMS school parent
- Greg Boulus - SMS school parent; Marketing; eager to help
- Mike Brown - SMS school parent; recent decision to send children to SMS
- Johnny Markwalter – Committee member (not SC); Public Relations; assistant DA
- Rob Johnson –SMS parent
- Jan LaFrance – Taught at Cross Creek; young, retired; several members spoke highly of her
- Ray Brady – formerly involved with school; wife teaches at SMS; great supporter

Recommendations for committee membership

- Marketing and Public Relations
 - Shawn Burke
 - Greg Boulus
 - Johnny Markwalter

- Stewardship and Development
 - Tommy Rose

Nursery Update – Ruth Ann Vericella

- Gina Crow and Felicia Schneider submitted recommendations of needed improvements to enhance safety and encourage the continuum of education which have been passed to Jimmy Carrick
- Recommendations include:
 - Replacing some windows with shatter-proof windows
 - Repairing warped/damaged fence in the play yard
 - Repair ladder to the attic where seasonal items are stored; install additional flooring to increase useable space
 - Replace the handicap toilets with regular toilets to make it easier for smaller children
 - Install dishwasher to clean toys (being donated by the Vericellas)
 - Consider awning for carpool on the rainy days
- Security system would be nice but unlikely since the campus has no security system
- Volunteer coverage
 - Need to be sure all volunteers are Virtus trained
 - Assign times to everyone who participates in nursery
 - Consider new ministry – volunteers for nursery who do not have children in nursery
 - There are people who are using the nursery, but do not volunteer and are not Virtus trained
 - **Recommendation** (endorsed by Fr. Jerry): Initial and follow policy that all who use nursery must be Virtus trained and volunteer in nursery

Fr. Jerry's Update

- Grace scholarships – push program with parish
 - May be used for to new kindergarteners and children from public school
 - Does not apply to families whose children go from private to private (SMS to Aquinas), but can keep Grace if have it at SMS and go to Aquinas
- Shared concern he has heard that “SMS is becoming too Alleluia influenced”
 - No children from Alleluia Community are students at SMS (all go to school there)
 - Have been incorrect assertions that “you have to have an Alleluia connection to be hired as a teacher”
 - Correct information and talking points for Commission members if this concern is brought to them
 - Majority of teachers at SMS are Catholic but not affiliated with the Alleluia Community
 - The best candidates are selected from the pool of applicants

Name classroom for saint project

- Fr. Jerry will write up program of sponsoring naming for a saint

The following were deferred:

- Each committee will develop and present goals/objectives - (1) 12-18-month range and (2) 3-4-year range after committee leadership and membership have been established
- Review Bylaws - Membership (Article 2) – Discuss whether to change
 - Section IV Members will serve 3-year terms
 - Section V Members may be appointed to a second 3-year term. Members will not generally serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher
Chair

Dates of School Commission meetings for AY 2014 – Please put these on your calendar and let Rhee know if you have a conflict.

February 18, 2014
April 15, 2014

Post-meeting addition to minutes:

The following is a synthesis of the recommendations for committee membership created by Rhee after the meeting, based on meeting discussion

The following characteristics have been identified as desirable among the members – I tried to link them to recommended candidates, but my linking is incomplete – please fill in table based on your knowledge and send me you changes

- Young parents, including some who don't yet have children at Aquinas
- Parishioners who have community/professional connections that might help meet school needs
- Background in marketing – (e.g., Jordan Watwood)
- Columbia county parents
- Background in/commitment to stewardship
- Don't necessarily need to be parents
- Represent continuum of education
 - Someone with children at Aquinas – build concept of continuum
 - Someone involved in nursery/MDO

Recommendations Characteristic for SMS Commission for AY 2015 (3-year terms; repeatable once)			
Candidate Name	Background/Experience	Commission Niche Filled by Candidate (from 11/35/2013 minutes)	Potential Committee Assignment
Felicia Schneider	Lead MDO teacher	Continuum of education-MDO	
Michael Lammers	Youth minister	Aquinas faculty	
Maureen Lewis	Professional educator	Continuum – Aquinas principal	
Alicia Ramage	Leads PTO welcome cmte; SMS parent leader	Continuum	
Dennis or Kim Welsh		SMS parents	
Matt/Melissa Johnson		SMS parents	
Joe Mitchell		SMS parent	
Kyle McArdle	Former PTO president	Stewardship connection (CSC)	
Shawn Burke			Marketing
Chris Sweeney		SMS parent	
Greg Boulus	Expressed interest in commission	SMS parent	Marketing
Mike Brown		SMS parent; recent decision to send children to SMS	
Johnny Markwalter		Community/professional connections/Asst DA	Public Relations
Rob Johnson		SMS parent	
Jan LaFrance	Taught at Cross Creek; young, retired; several members spoke highly of her		
Ray Brady	Formerly involved with school; wife teaches at SMS; great supporter		Public Relations?
Jordan Watwood		Background in marketing	Marketing

