

**SMOTH School Commission**

**11/1/11**

**5:00 PM**

**Parish Hall**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:** Rhee Fincher (chair), Stuart Bedenbaugh, Steve Hagler, Joe McBride, Fr. Jerry Ragan, Tony Ramage, John Strelec, Ruth Ann Vericella, Mary Davis

**Excused:** Catherine Bedenbaugh, Carol Fuller, Charles Whatley

The meeting began with prayer at 5:05 PM. The minutes of the 10/4/2011 meeting were approved.

**Principal's Update and Discussion Items: Joe McBride**

- **Tuition for AY 2013:** Joe presented his analysis and recommendation for SMS tuition for AY 2013 (See also "Proposed Tuition Increases for 2012-2013", distributed at meeting). Key discussion pointed included:
  - SMS tuition compared to other local private schools

Tuition Category	Current Tuition (AY 2012)	SMS Tuition for AY 2013 with Various Percent Increases		
		2%	4%	6%
SMS tuition AY 2012 – Catholic students	\$6100	\$6225	\$6350	\$6470
SMS tuition AY 2012 – Non-Catholic students	\$7500	\$7650	\$7800	\$7950
Average tuition paid by tuition-paying SMS students	\$6800			
Average tuition of other private schools in Augusta	\$8896			

- SMS AY 2012 tuition increase was 2%
  - Cost of attendance/student = \$6300 (including bond cost)
  - All Catholics who belong to other parishes pay tuition to attend SMS; St. Teresa's pays \$1000/student for their parishioners attend SMS
  - Some tuition-paying families qualify for Grace; if eligible, they are encouraged to apply for Grace before becoming stewardship attendees
  - Joe recommends a multi-year plan to incrementally become closer to others
  - **ACTION:** After discussion, the School Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Finance Commission a 4% tuition increase for AY 2013
- **Formation year:** Families must participate in stewardship for at least 1 year before becoming a non-tuition paying family at SMS
    - The members discussed the pros and cons of the "one-year rule". Parents who are members of SMOTH and have small children have been warned that they must be a parish stewardship family for one year before they become eligible not to pay tuition. As such, they are aware of the relationship between being a stewardship family and paying/not paying tuition. The rule was felt to be ill founded for families who move to Augusta from outside the CSRA. The members discussed changing the policy to allow families who join SMOTH

- from outside the CSRA to become non-tuition families without the waiting period if they have a letter from their previous pastor indicating that they have been active contributing members to their previous parish.
- **ACTION:** After discussion, the School Commission passed the following: Waive tuition for new school families outside CSRA if they present a letter from their previous pastor indicating that they have been active contributing members to their parish. The motion passed (5 yea to 1 nay). The nay vote reflected one member's recommendation that the waiver should apply to all families new to SMOTH, not just those from outside the CSRA. This recommendation will be taken to the Pastoral Council for consideration.

**Fr. Jerry's Update:** Due to time, Fr. Jerry did not provide an update.

#### **Stewardship/Finance**

- Carnival income: \$38,000

The next School Commission meeting will be **11/29/2011** and is a combined meeting with the Finance Commission. Members were encouraged to try to attend this important meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher

#### **Meeting dates for AY 2012**

**11/29/11** (Combined with finance commission – important meeting)

12/6/2011 (Canceled)

Jan – No meeting (could not find date)

2/7/2012

3/6/2012

4/3/2012

**Late addition:** The recommendations for tuition and tuition waiver as recommended above were accepted by the Finance Commission on 11/29/2012.