

St. Dominic Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

8 December 2016

Present: Jim Palzewicz, Meg Siehr, Jodee Tlachac, Mario Montalbo, Nora DeLise, Michael Ricci, Mark Otten, Jeff Sladky, Jerry Buting, Father Dave Reith, Megan Anderson, Jill Fischer

Excused: Father John Gibson, Mark Gundrum

1. Opening Prayer: Jim Palzewicz
2. School Update: Jill Fischer
 - a. School year enrollment at beginning of academic year was 440; now, with family moves, it is 435.
 - b. Closed current family registration on November 21; December 8 is start of parish family registration.
 - c. School is currently fielding many phone calls for tours. Some families are open to starting at semester.
 - d. 5 new staff members: Joe Stempien, Laura Brielmaier, Pam Patterson, Patrick Russell, Michele Toby: all doing remarkable job.
 - e. HR topics to consider:
 - i. Maintaining competitive wages: with a pending teacher shortage, we must ensure we are competitive in our starting salary.
 - ii. This year we employed "Power School." Staff took a year to build professional development around it before rolling it out to parents. Part of that process is transitioning from traditional grading to standardized grading. Making a move from focusing on skills mastery vs. GPA and percentages.
 - iii. Successful Knights Move dance-a-thon: now able to purchase 72 chrome books.
 - iv. This past Tuesday was an information night for parents for google use in classroom.
 - v. Changing Spanish program: trying to better prepare students.
 - f. Student Advisory Committee:
 - i. New template for accreditation using national benchmarks.
 - ii. Committee will be working on all topics related to governance.
 - iii. Catholic ID subcommittee of SAC is actively reading materials for teaching sexuality.
 - iv. Vocation day: Feb 2: world day of consecrated life; during Catholic schools week.
 - g. Ultimate goal is opening our eyes in pursuit of recognition of academic excellence.
 - h. Father Dave's notes regarding school:
 - i. St. Dominic Catholic School is largest Catholic grade school in Waukesha County.
 - ii. There was no discussion or discontent regarding 3 middle school teachers' exits.
 - iii. Given size of current 7th grade, we are preparing for what follows their graduation – net enrollment adjustment.
 - i. Jim requested Jill's perspective on how effective the parish and school have been in building connections with one another (a discussion point from last year).

- j. Michael Ricci asked if there is a consistency between what LFF is doing and what the parish school children are doing; he noted that the point of arrival metric is 9th grade. We want all to be at same spot by 9th grade. Jill commented that while the curriculum is consistent between the two, the school children receive faith formation in every facet of their day. LFF gets it at home but not in the fullness of their day while at school.
 - k. Mark Otten asked about the size of the classes; Jill replied that 8th grade is currently the smallest. Average of about 20 per homeroom.
 - l. Father Dave made mention of an agenda point for next time: 60th anniversary of the first graduating class might be good opportunity to reach out to alumni. Would like to do some creative thinking without putting a burden on anybody. Strategize a timeline. We are well positioned. Stable neighborhood, gym, SMART team, etc. Alumni component shouldn't be underestimated.
- 3. Review November Minutes: Minutes approved by consensus.
- 4. Commission Updates
 - a. Prayer and Worship: Jodee said it was their first meeting since September. She has received positive feedback about Hospitality Ministers and how welcoming and helpful they are.
 - i. Eucharistic Adoration: It will be starting first Tuesday of Lent in March. From 3:30-7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. It will be staffed through sign-up genius and/or an alternative for people who want to staff it who might not use internet etc.
 - ii. Father Dave commented on Vision 2020: goal is to provide 8 ½-hour opportunities. We want to make sure it's private time for prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. For example, we cannot have a group rosary etc there during Adoration.
 - iii. Liturgical Ministry: Thinking of ways to open up for volunteers –a fair or being invited.
 - iv. Jeff suggested spotlighting a different ministry each week in bulletin or online.
 - v. Jodee shared commission's response to the Archdiocese workshop.
 - b. Formation: Megan shared the Formation commission's needs from Pastoral Council for the Advent Experience event: greeters, baked goods, etc.
- 5. Pastoral Council Planning and Goals: Jim
 - a. Pastoral Council Retreat and Goals: next steps
 - i. Jim suggested that it would be valuable to have an all-commission staff meeting like we did last year. Objective is, like last year, to discuss how we performed in the 3-year picture, and also to share our goals and make connections.
 - ii. February may be a good time for that.
 - iii. It would include commission leadership and staff.
- 6. Chair Comments: Jim
 - a. PC members volunteered to fill spots for Family Greeters and Speakers at all Christmas Masses.
 - b. Lenten Day of Retreat: Dr. Dan Scholz is set to lead, and it will be held at the Carmelite Convent.
- 7. Pastor Comments: Father Dave
 - a. New cluster situation among parishes: which ones will be clustered, and which ones will be standalone parishes.
 - b. Inspirio will end March 31st.
 - c. Rekeying will commence this month.
 - d. "We Believe" ornament gift from parish to parishioners for 2016.

- e. Yellow Ribbon Ministry still doing well.
 - f. Nick Baumgardner will don the role of St. Nick at Advent Experience.
 - g. We are looking for a part-time maintenance employee.
 - h. Father Flaherty will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood. Father Dave would like to have a day that people who know him come and recognize him.
 - i. Monthly Census Tracking for November 2016: Trend shows young families joining. And number one reason for leaving is death.
8. Closing Prayer: Jim

Meeting concluded at 9:17.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Anderson