



SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SAC Minutes
1-17-24
6:00-7:30 p.m.

SAC Members Present: Rebecca Lahr, Alicia Nordstrom, Molly McGraw Healy, Kevin Dempsey, Margaret Andersen, ~~Christine Denton~~, Laura Carillo, Elise Hoverman, Rikki Mortl, Kelly Cunningham, Aimee Doan

Ex Officio Members Present: Karen Burse, Mary Daugherty, ~~Fr. Pedersen~~

Opening prayer

Approval of minutes from November 2023

Meeting minutes were motioned, seconded, and approved.

Principal Report

Update on gym floor fundraiser

- A silent donor (put in contact with the school through CSCOE) has promised a 50% matching grant, will donate \$25K when the school hits \$75K in donations, and the remaining \$25K when the full \$100K is raised. coming in from legacy families really helping with this. Total raised to date is \$56K, there's no time limit on the matching promise, and the advancement team is confident they'll get there, a lot of momentum with legacy families stepping up to donate. Liz is following up with donors, making one-on-one contact.
- Church and school administration have made a decision on the floor, and plan to use a polyurethane material that is a great option for maintenance, longevity, and multi-use requirements. Targeting a June start date for the instillation, multiple vendors working up quotes. Project will also include stage and steps, and potentially a score board if enough money is raised.

Gala 2024 update

- \$6K in Sponsorships solicited so far, 140 tickets sold, goal is to sell another 50. The SAC committee discussed some of the new live and silent auction items and were encouraged to spread the word about this wonderful event.

PreK---Revise 3 year old program

- Looking into offering a 3-year-old (Pre-3) all day preschool program, the length of the regular school day, if there is enough demand.
- Working with CSCOE on plans and wrote up a \$10K grant request for help with some of the start-up costs, including cots for napping, instillation of a sink in the classroom, and curriculum. Determination on the grant will be made in the next month.
- Administration sent out a "feeler" request to the school committee and has 3 children signed up so far.
- Financial aid does not apply for Pre-K or Pre-3 programs, tuition will be the same for 3's and 4's

CSCOE Marketing Grant

- Awarded a \$10K marketing grant for 2024/2025 school year – working up detailed plan that will make the most use of these funds.

Prairie Care Grant-Mental Health (Peace of Mind)

- The EANS funding that was meant to cover the Peace of Mind mental health curriculum, expires in September, 2024. This unfortunately has created the need for an additional \$15K of funds to cover the cost of the program next year, as Peace of Mind is billed monthly and Sacred Heart is not allowed to pre-pay.
- Beth Hippen has offered to help with writing up a grant request - Prairie Care Grant, for this \$15K
- The 3rd year of the Peace of Mind curriculum is free, so by raising this \$15K the program will be secured for the next two years.

Catholic Schools Week

- Decision made not to have an open house this year based on poor attendance the last few years. Preference is for families to schedule personal tours that can be geared towards their needs, during the school day if possible.

Class Masses

- To encourage and invite family into the school and church, each grade will get a chance to host a mass and breakfast (donuts) for their families.
- 6th grade was the first class to do so, on 1/12, they had a great turnout of family members, and it felt like a wonderful community builder, hoping to continue to build on this momentum with each class.

Sacred Heart's 100 year anniversary

- Coming up - 2026/2027 school year
- Planning on coordinating a cookbook with school/parish families
- The committee discussed brainstorming in the next SAC meeting on events or ways to celebrate that will make that 100th year special

Financials/Budget

- Mary walked through financial highlights through fiscal November
- Pulling out restricted activity, operationally the school is doing well, just ahead of break-even year-to-date vs. budget.
- The volleyball tournament was helpful in pulling in some extra revenue.
- There is about \$8800 of tuition outstanding that is greater than 31 days aged, Karen and Mary working with those families directly.
- The Finance Council met at the beginning of January – presented with various different scenarios for tuition and salary increases for the 2024/2025 school year.
 - o Analysis focused specifically on surrounding schools, to make sure we are staying aligned with the local market.
 - o Each of the tuition scenarios still result a bottom-line deficit, the last few years COVID funds from the government helped offset annual deficits, but there will need to be more scrutiny this year on stabilizing the budget.
 - o The Finance Council will embark on an overall holistic budgeting process this spring, that will include a review of budgeting for compensation.
 - o Finance Council voted on a recommendation for tuition, working with Father to finalize, and looking to release to school families in February.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

- In preparation for re-enrollment kicking off February 15th in TADS, the committee reviewed proposed revisions to the current Continuous Enrollment Policy.
- When the continuous enrollment process was first initiated about 4 years ago, terms of release for tuition payments were set in place. The current policy holds families who pull their children from the school during the summer to 25% of the full year's tuition. This has been difficult to enforce.

- The goal in the policy revisions discussed is to create a more concrete schedule as to specific penalties for breaking a tuition contract.
- The policy includes some vague and discretionary language that was revised for clarity.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve proposed changes to the policy.

MNSAA Self-Study Year

- The committee reviewed the latest approved recommendation from the teachers/staff for an update to the Sacred Heart Catholic School Mission Statement. The teachers incorporated SAC's prior recommendations into a new proposed statement. No new recommendations for changes from SAC.
- Reviewed remaining MNSAA Leadership standards 6.07 through 6.12. In next month's meeting, the committee will do a full final review of Standard 6 in entirety and will brainstorm and discuss Strengths and Recommendations for Growth.

New Business

- Discussion of plans for the Fishy Fry - Feb 23rd will be the first one, and then the first 3 Fridays in March
- Settled inflation has resulted in reduced costs of most of the food, except for the fish. This has allowed for a reduction in pricing of fish fry meals (from \$17 to \$15).
- Fish sandwich, baked potato, & cole slaw new meal option

Closing Prayer

- Meeting adjourned