



**St Catherine of Siena School Council
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Monday, October 3, 2016 – School Conference Room

Members Present

Jeremy Barr
Pat Buckles
Tracy Dible
Karen Gomez (Chair)
Betty Hunt, Principal
Diana Kessinger
Rob Sill
Father Dan Spexarth
Karen Stein
Vanessa McKinney, PTO President

Members Absent

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Karen Gomez at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Father Dan opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of September Minutes

Minutes from the September meeting were approved. Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes. Rob seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Announcements

Special Guest

Mr. Hans Asmussen, our liaison to the Diocesan School Council, was introduced. The Diocesan School Council is asking each school in the diocese to discuss and provide a written report about what are the biggest issues they are dealing with and how they are trying to resolve those issues. The liaisons will then share this information at their Diocesan School Council meetings.

Agenda Additions

None

Committee Reports

Wellness Committee – Karen and Betty are our representatives on the Wellness Committee. No meeting was held this month.

Technology Committee – Rob is our representative on the Technology Committee. No meeting was held this month.

Athletic Committee – A new committee formed this year interested in getting athletics started at St. Catherine. Representatives Vanessa and Jeremy will provide updates.

Associate Principal's Report

- Father P.J. and the teachers have set up a schedule for him to visit all the classrooms on a regular basis. He will visit K – 2nd grade one week and then 3rd – 7th grade the following week.
- Jeremy and Tim Schmidt have been working to get tablets ready to take home for the 6th and 7th grade students. Some of the older tablets are being repurposed for the younger grades to use for their W.I.N. time.

Principal's Report

- This week is Bullying Prevention Week. Our teacher committee has a daily plan of activities.
- Tuesday, October 4, @ 3:30 is Blessing of the Pets by the grotto.
- Wednesday, October 5, @ 9:00 A.M., we will have a Living Rosary by the grotto. This is for Respect Life Week. Students will also be allowed to wear their red Respect Life shirts or another red shirt, and blue jeans.
- Friday, October 7, is Eucharistic Adoration and Spirit Dress.
- The week of October 10, all religion teachers will teach the diocesan required Safe Environment lesson.
- Tuesday, October 11, @ 6:30 is another VIRTUS training here at St. Catherine. We want all parents VIRTUS trained by the end of this school year. On this day, the 5th grade attend the Fire Prevention Day at the Zoo. This is a program specifically for 5th graders.
- Friday, October 14, is the end of first quarter with noon dismissal and no extended day. Teachers will have the afternoon to verify grades and prepare for conferences.
- Monday, October 17, report cards go home. It is the only time we sent home hard copies of report cards.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be Tuesday evening, October 18, from 5:00-8:00 P.M., and again, on Thursday, October 20, from 1:00-8:00 P.M. PTO will furnish evening meals for the teachers both evenings.
- Wednesday, October 19, is Fall Individual Pictures. Also, our second Faith Families activity is in the afternoon.
- There will be no school on Friday, October 21, due to the extra hours spent during conferences.
- Monday, October 24, 1st grade will dress in Halloween costumes and visit Cornerstone. 3rd grade will take a field trip to the Cosmosphere.
- Saturday, October 29, is PTO's Trunk or Treat.
- Sunday, October 30, there is a CSAL Coaches Clinic.
- Monday, October 31, middle school basketball practice can begin, and we have the Halloween parties at 2:15.
- Tuesday, November 1, there is no school due to All Saints Day.
- Thursday, November 3, is a diocesan Scholars Bowl and this will involve 7th grade.
- Friday, November 4, is Eucharistic Adoration and Spirit Dress. We are thinking of actually doing our WISS fundraiser in the fall this year, and if we do, it may be on this date.

Pastor's Report

Father Dan commended Betty, Jeremy, and the teachers of St. Catherine on the great start to the school year with incorporating new staff members and 50 additional students. Many positive comments have been made from both parents and students about how things are going.

PTO President's Report

- The first Spangles night was a success; the prize wheel raised \$97.
- At the September PTO meeting seven grants were approved, one related to anti-bullying week.
- The Trunk or Treat Committee has met several times to plan activities. The youth group will be doing two indoor haunted playgrounds. No electricity will be available for the trunks this year. Chili and hotdogs will be served and Old Chicago will be donating all the food.

Old Business

- Update on AIMS Web and W.I.N.
 - At the teacher in-service on September 23rd, the AIMS Web student assessment data was discussed, and based on the results, the groups have been formed. Betty and Jeremy have been observing the classroom groups in action and the students are doing well working on specific skills they need at their own pace.
- Social Media Survey Results
 - Jeremy shared the social media survey results. It showed that Facebook was the most frequently used social outlet. 43% of parents said that they were moderately likely to check or use social media on a weekly basis (less than 5 times per day). 82% said they were either extremely likely or very likely to follow St. Catherine on social media if we chose to have it. Four parents indicated interest in heading it up. Further information will be gathered and discussed at upcoming meetings.

New Business

- Spirit Dress Policy
 - With the start of the new school year a Spirit Dress Policy has been sent out to parents for clarification. See below.

Spirit Dress Policy

Spirit Dress will consist of a St. Catherine spirit shirt, ankle-length blue jeans, and tennis shoes. Shirt must be worn without any adjustments such as tying it at the waist or sleeves. Jeans must be modest; skin-tight jeans and jeggings are not allowed. Middle school students (6th, 7th) are allowed to wear a St. Catherine athletic shirt on Spirit Dress Days.

First Fridays of each month and half days of school are designated Spirit Dress. Also, Spirit Dress may be worn on some field trips determined by the teacher and the destination.

- Preschool Preparations
 - The Preschool Committee has met to discuss the needs of the new St. Catherine preschool. Betty, Luke Dolechek, and Tim Schmidt visited St. Elizabeth's preschool. Betty and Luke will also visit a public preschool at Maize. Betty has emailed west side

principals a list of questions about their preschool; including hours, fees, etc. Mr. Dolechek will draw up floor plans and additional meetings will be held to evaluate all the information as the committee proceeds ahead.

- Suggestions on how to gauge interest for Preschool:
 - E-mail current parents, along with putting a notice in the bulletin to see what the response would be.

Future Business

- More on Long Range Planning – Betty and Karen Gomez will continue to review surveys for future items for long range planning.

Closing Prayer

Father Dan led us in the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.