

St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education
Minutes for Meeting of 9/1/2020

Opening Prayer:

Roll Call: Present: Father Stef, Julie Scherer, Theresa Broering, Carol Smith, Nancy Browning, Judy Newberry, Jen Kirst, Gwen Fields, Raymond Schlosser, Ashley Cox, Sarah Weinel, Absent: Excused:

Pastor's Report (Fr. Stef)

First communion went well on Sunday. Families were grateful for the live stream. Father thanked those involved in the planning. Confirmation with the bishop will be October 1st. Father met with the faculty. The increased use of bandwidth has caused issues. He asked how things were going and how they were feeling. There was a range of responses. Father had asked some people to join the board. So far a couple had declined.

Principal's Report (Julie Scherer)

Reopening has gone fairly well. The new diocesan updates on opening procedures are being communicated to parents. The main issue seems to be with students who may have to stay home because of contact tracing, family members being quarantined etc. rather than direct cases involving students. The MAPP testing window is open. Grades 1–7 are required for the basic tests. We are looking at also including the optional 8th grade. We will be starting back going to mass on a staggered rotation to allow proper distancing. Ashley asked if Chromebooks could go home in preparation in case NTI is needed. Father asked to check into if our Catholic Mutual policy would already covered the possibility of damage. If not, finding out if it would be possible to add a rider to cover Chromebook loaners taken home. Current enrollment is 134 including at home learners.

Religious Education Report (Kip Perkins)

He was very impressed and moved by how first communion went. He is planning for confirmation and thankful to all the work Teresa does to help with the logistics of everything. CCD starts back 9/13. The diocese has sent out some helpful additional guidelines for CCD programs reopening..

Evaluation/Planning Committee Report (Nancy Browning)

Nancy reviewed goals and summarized roles for her committee. We had proposed 9 possible goals. She proposed 3 main goals she felt we could focus upon this year. She passed back a summary of the responses for the request last month for goals from each

Policy Review Committee Report (Gwen Fields, Raymond Schlosser)

Reviewed goals for the committee.

Gwen had submitted a number of the policies for Fr. Stef's approval.

Father asked about the header to include a revised date

Father approved policy 3.0 as submitted. Father will submit comments he has on the other policies presented to him to Gwen for further review and approval by the board.

Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report (Jenn Kirst, Ashley Cox, Sarah Weinel)

Ashley reviewed their three goals for the year. Julie wanted to add communications from both the board and the school especially with regards to any awards and accolades.

Finance had not met yet to send a report for this meeting.

PTO update (Jenn) PTO will plan to meet the first Thursday of each month. There was a productive meeting last week. They are looking at a survey to gather information of how we are adapting to Covid, especially those who are currently on remote learning plans to make sure they have a contact and feel involved and connected to the school. Parents were interested in the training the faculty had on emotional health of the students. There were good ideas on fund raising shared especially in light of some of the usual events not being possible this year. They wanted to put together a plan for new families that would be in addition to the buddy families that would be “St. Catherine School 101.” This would include FAQs and resources about whom to ask when questions arise. Face Book-PTO asked again about creating a closed Face-Book group page for another avenue of communication among the families. This request provided further information following up on the request last year about which the board had reservations. Gwen shared information from a slideshow overview of what the goals and possible benefits of such a group page. It would not be an “official” St. Catherine group page. Father expressed concern about where the line is drawn between to the communications among the parents who are members and to what extent the school would be involved or the subject of the page discussions.

Judy- Parish Council started with a moment of silence for Dave Barth who was member of the board. They moved on to stewardship campaign for this year and finding a chair. We will follow the same timetable and pattern as last year’s successful campaign.

Carol-Teachers- There is not much more to add. Most teachers and students are happy to be back. There are some with concerns. Students are mostly doing very well with masks and distancing.

Adjournment:

Closing Prayer: