

Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School strives to form students in the image of Christ through the teachings, values, and traditions of the Catholic Church. Through a quality educational program and service in their school, parish, and community, students are empowered to reach their highest potential as they build the Kingdom of God

Shepherd of the Hills School Commission Minutes

October 06, 2011

Commission Members in Attendance: Pat Seghers, Derek Dorn, Tom Loehr, Tim Guiden, Craig Woyak

Absent: Nikki Berres

Others in attendance: Rose Baker, Nici Colwin

Decisions Made or Endorsed by School Commission:

Support of parent choice in choosing whether their child should have chocolate milk provided at school was endorsed with nutritional information to be identified and shared with parents to foster nutritional awareness.

Parishioner Comments/Concerns:

- Question regarding whether chocolate milk be available to kids in school at all, due to nutritional concern for sugar content. Discussion on the topic included consideration whether to have chocolate milk available at all or allow parental choice for individual children. Points made included not all kids can tolerate the white milk (1%) due to tasting too watery. The commission unanimously agreed that chocolate milk will continue to be available and it should be parent choice for their kids. Mr. Seghers will explore whether 2% white milk can be available as well. The school will also look into educational information regarding making nutritional choices for children when selecting which milk their child should be provided. This information will be sent home from Mr. Seghers before the milk ordering deadline for second semester so parents can reconsider their choices in this regard.
- Inquiry whether new school choir assistance would be reconsidered (this topic was tabled at the September meeting.) Previously parish council felt since the choir was voluntary; we would not support monetary assistance for choir participation. Rose Baker indicated that there is a private donor willing to fund any kids who would be willing but did not sign up. Pat Seghers will take this offer back to Fr. Joe and Michelle O'Brien for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission Reports:

October 12 H&S Committee met. Alumni Appeal is working on a newsletter mailing. Fundraising has a goal to raise \$4000 this year through School Store online effort, Electronics Recycling, and Artwork Fundraiser involving magnetic artwork sales. School shirt and spirit wear order information is being put together for a November newsletter. Order deadline is Nov. 18th. Donut with Dad is planned for 10/18. School Halloween party for K5 – Gr4 is planned for Oct. 31st. Book fair is planned in mid-November. Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for Nov. 15 and 17. Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon is planned for Nov. 16th. Next H&S Committee meeting is Nov. 9th, 6 p.m. at Coffeehouse.

NEW BUSINESS

Principal's Report:

1. Chocolate milk offered at school (see discussion above under Parent Comments)

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2. Parent survey results – Mr. Seghers shared the results of the parent survey given to those parents who attended the Parent Information Meeting on September 21. The majority of our school parents were present and filled out the school quality survey. Overall, they rated the school with an 8.3 on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 meaning outstanding. No scores were lower than a 7. Some of the most common “school strengths” listed were the school environment/atmosphere, quality of the teachers and principal, and class sizes. Areas for improvement received various responses, with no clear pattern. Updated curriculum was one area that appeared in various subjects; another was upgrading the facility (more space).
3. Feedback regarding Night School – Mr. Seghers asked for informal feedback about the recent Night School family activity. Board members reported that it continued to be a worthwhile event.
4. School pictures – After discussion the commission endorsed looking into having the school pictures taken on visitation day, (late August) when parents are with children. Benefits to this include no lost instructional time and the lack of recess/PE class that day to mess up clothing prior to pictures being taken. The office staff will pursue this with the photographer for next year to see if it’s possible,
5. The commission reviewed Standard 1, the Foundational Statements, of the self-study/accreditation process, led by Mr. Seghers. This year our school is in the self-study phase, with the intent of looking at our school inwardly. Standard 1 of this phase evaluates foundational statements such as vision/mission, and evaluates our school in each element. From this information, the self-study team develops recommendations for improvement as needed. The commission reviewed the Standard 1 report with no concerns or follow-up identified.
6. Mr. Seghers shared information about a new school commission member to fill the seat vacated in August, 2011 by Peggy Floyd. The candidate’s name is Ted Lis, a retired engineer and parishioner who was nominated among others to fulfill a request from the archdiocese to have a mix of parent and non-parent members on the school commission. Ted has met with Mr. Seghers for background information about the school and school commission processes and has agreed to join the commission, starting with the November, 2011 meeting. The commission members reached consensus in approving Ted as a new member.