

Shepherd of the Hills School Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2012

Members in attendance: Nikki Berres, Derek Dorn, Ted Lis, Tom Loehr (parish council rep), Pat Seghers (principal)

Absent: Tim Guiden

Others in Attendance: Rob Holden, Mary Bowe, Mary Jo Moody, Amy Timblin, Karen Faris, Karen Schreiner, Brenda Christensen

Review of December Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Parishioner Concern/Comments

Brenda C. asked if there had been any discussion about adding locker rooms onto the building as part of a possible school building addition. Mr. Seghers reviewed the report of the Building Feasibility Study Committee, which as decided to wait until next fall to make any decision on moving forward with any building recommendations. He also shared that the discussion at that committee focused more on whether it was feasible or necessary to add classroom space, without much discussion yet on adding storage or locker rooms. The committee will reconvene next fall to make a final recommendation.

Derek D. asked how the Spanish DVD pilot program was going. Mrs. Moody reported that Gr. 5-8 are enjoying the lessons together with the classroom teachers, but no discussion has yet taken place on whether to expand the program further. The cots per grade would be between \$1200 - \$2000, depending on the grade level.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Commission Reports

Derek D. shared the reports from Home/School, Fundraising, and Recruitment Committees.

Highlights:

The Recruitment committee (with additional new members!) assisted with phone calling of parishioners who have children aged 2 or 3 to see if they were planning on sending them to our school. Due to a smaller population of children of this age in our parish, class sizes may be smaller in the future.

The smaller school fund-raisers are not going as well as hoped this year. The goal is to raise \$4000 by the end of June. The alumni have been slow to respond to the mailings; follow up phone calls from committee members may help.

The Scholastic Book Fair raised \$674 for new library books, which will be ordered soon. The cookie social held after the school Christmas concert resulted in a mess in the church hallway. Plans in this regard will be modified next year to attempt to improve this. We are rescheduling our lunch for seniors (postponed from this fall) to coincide with our May Crowning on May 9th.

2. School Commission – 5-Year Goal

Nikki B and Pat S. researched information from 2009-2010 when this goal was established by the School Commission: To hold an annual late summer school family retreat at Camp Vista. The goal wasn't

communicated adequately to the new principal and school commission members last year, and few families signed up for this summer's event. As a result of the lack of promotion and participation, it was cancelled. Speculation was that it fell on 9/11, that the fee was increased from \$20 to \$35, and other reasons why there were less signed up this year. The commission will continue to ask those who helped plan the event, as well as those who attended the previous year, to gain feedback and plan an event for next summer that would be beneficial and attractive to school families.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Standard 6 Report (from Accreditation Self Study)- Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning

Mr. Seghers shared the committee's report on Standard 6 of our self-study regarding curriculum and instruction. He highlighted a few areas for improvement and also the areas in which the school does well according to the archdiocesan standard. Areas for improvement are developing further assistance our lowest and highest performing students. These are already being addressed this year. Otherwise, the school has a solid curriculum in place. The commission endorsed the report.

2. Principal's Report

A. School Technology Plan

Robb Holden gave a presentation on the many uses of the Smartboard in the classroom. The commission then endorsed the School Technology Plan for 2011-2014, as redrafted by the Technology Committee this fall.

B. Catholic Schools Week

Mr. Seghers shared the school's plans for this important week: Jan. 28 – Feb. 3rd. We will have a special school mass to begin the week on Saturday, the 28th. Daily events are scheduled.

C. Living Way of the Cross

Mrs. Moody and Mr. Seghers shared some minor changes to this year's program. It will be voluntary for students in Gr. 5-6, but mandatory for Gr. 7-8. If needed, Gr. 3-4 students may volunteer (with parental permission). If so, any Gr. 3-4 students who participate will only attend some of the later, after-school practices in minor roles. There will be two fewer performances overall this year. Due to after school conflicts, the practice schedules will be much the same as last year, with part of the school day used. Students will have coordinating study/projects in religion and language arts to ensure that the curriculum is incorporated into the program.

D. Changes in Spring Concert

Due to changes in the music program and curriculum for older students occurring this spring, as well as the amount of time spent on The Living Way of the Cross (Gr. 5-8), only the younger grades (Gr. K-4) will perform at the spring concert on May 15th.

E. School Budget for 2012-13

Mr. Seghers met with Sandra Gitter and Fr. Joe for an initial discussion about next year's budget. An attempt will be made to keep within the tuition recommendations from the 2010-2015 study team report, as well as continue to improve teacher salaries. A draft will be forwarded to board members soon for discussion at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 6:00 P.M.