

School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

5-2-2024

- 1) Approval of April's minutes – Amy made a motion to approve minutes – Anthony seconded – approved by consent.
- 2) School update and items
 - a. TOB – TOB committee led by Jenna Cain and Catherin Horvath. Anthony Basso serves as a member of SAC. Committee discussed the class time needed to conduct the lessons and ensure materials are age appropriate. Ruah Woods is being utilized for K-5. Grades 6-8 are using Sophia publishing materials.
 - b. Enrollment Numbers – 430 students currently enrolled in K-8. Clovers is full with 5 on the waitlist. Total enrollment will be around 512 for the 2024-25 school year.
 - c. Staff – Librarian Mrs. May is leaving; Mr. Ray is retiring; Mrs. Hernandez is taking a position with Avon; Mrs. Miller is not returning; Mrs. Salcedo is preschool aid who is not returning; Two third grade teachers are moving to 5th grade. Mrs. Carlson is moving to 3rd grade and an additional 3rd grade teacher will need to be hired. Job postings for those positions will be made to the Archdiocese website and St. Malachy website.
 - d. Legislation – Dyslexia screening – St. Malachy (non-public) has been exempted. Non-Public schools required to screen K-2. Next year, St. Malachy will be required to conduct dyslexia training. If Indiana teachers have a K-6 general education license, they must renew their reading endorsement by 2027 to continue licensure. Need 80 hours for Key to Literacy. The additional licensing requirement may cause some teachers to consider retirement. Beginning in 2024-2025 school year, 3rd grade students that fail reading assessment are required to repeat 3rd grade. St. Malachy's current policy is to send any students that fail to Brownsburg's intensive summer reading program. St. Malachy will be opting into an optional 2nd grade IRead program that will be used to evaluate and help students a year earlier. Parents will be key partners to ensure best possible outcomes for student's passage. Given large class sizes, holding kids back could create a backlog into other classes. We may want to consider having a literacy night to educate parents on how they can help.
- 3) Service Hour Requirement
 - a. Should the deposit be raised? The Finance Council discussed needing additional buy-in. With vouchers, an essential element has been lost as parents are no longer making the same sacrifices. Kids need to know that St. Malachy is not another public school option. Service hours are one way to make a sacrifice of their time. Finance Council noted there is money from the state to pay for school, but there is not an increase to tithing to the church with the new money coming into families. The church still continues to subsidize the school even though more public money is coming in. Should those getting Choice get an email about additional tithing? The Finance Council and School Advisory Council need to

start thinking about how to address this. Some challenges with engagement relate to COVID and people utilizing technology more. Tithing is staying steady but not increasing with the new money coming into the church. If we lose the sacrifice that we had, it may move towards self-centered behavior. The church would benefit from additional tithing, but ultimately, we are concerned about preserving the culture of the school.

It is important for families to know that even with vouchers the church continues to subsidize the school. May be helpful to put out educational piece.

Should there be an opt-out option with the service hours? Doing so may create even less sacrifice. The service hour form may not be clear about how the money is utilized and then forfeited. It would be helpful to have better data. There may be options to better log service hours. Should we have ways to recognize family/students for their service hour requirements?

To be resolved through further discernment – focus on stewardship and sacrifice.

- 4) Discipline Board/Process – The Discipline Board Subcommittee met. Recommendation is to streamline policy and to only have K-8 policy and not have separate policies. The review board is to help the principal make a decision. Is this what the review board should be set up to do? Mrs. Kennison said the subgroup should meet to streamline the policy and make it clearer for parents. The goal with the project is to have this finished by the upcoming school year. We will need additional involvement from teachers. The Discipline Board Subcommittee consists of (Amanda Capps, Ruth McCluskey, Shaun Hopf, Jon Zarich, and Tami Scott).
- 5) Finance Council - Budget for church and school will be sent for the end of this month.
- 6) Good of the cause – Question about how the safe visitor system is working – the school continues to educate visitors on how to use the system. Name tags for Council members should be worn at any school events. School masses would be appropriate to wear your name tag. Mrs. Kennison has a table for the Raider Rev Up on May 8.
- 7) Next meeting is June 6 at 6:00 p.m.