

## School Advisory Council

### Meeting Agenda

8.8.2024

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Danda led the Council in an opening prayer.

2. Minutes – The Council reviewed the minutes. The Committee reviewed and suggested minor edits for grammar and form. Mrs. Nesbit made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Scott.

### 3. School Update and Items

- a. Mrs. Kennison said the new discipline policy was reviewed by teachers and staff, and it was well received. The goal of the policy is to change behavior, not just provide punishment. Category 1, which are classroom rules, are basic rules that go along with the Shamrock way. The classroom behavior strategies will be exhausted in enforcing these rules. This could be moving a student to a different seat or having a conversation on the side. After those classroom strategies are exhausted, additional behavior supports will be used. These supports will be utilized for a specific student and will not be applied to the class. Teachers and staff have looked at consistency in application – this extends to items such as submitting homework as well so that consistent treatment among students extends to different categories of behavior. With late assignments, the goal will be to help the student reach the appropriate behavior and return assignments on time. But, the standard will still be progressive behavior modification in these different areas. Every student will get a free pass for unprepared homework and a bathroom pass. This will serve as a grace period for kids who are working in good faith to meet the standard. If the slips are unused at the end of the quarter, they can be turned in for Shamrock slips.
- b. Enrollment – There is potentially a new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student who was offered a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade spot that opened up. Currently 513 students (514 if new student accepts) 432 K—8 students, and 81 preschool students.
- c. Staff – Mrs. Mindy Alley is a new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. She has prior teaching experience at Catholic Schools and is also a former St. Malachy student. Miss Emmy Cupp is the new junior high math teacher. She was teaching geometry and algebra during her student teaching. Other teacher candidates were also considered for these positions during the selection process.
- d. Parking and drop-off operations are currently going smoothly with new families adapting to parking rules and applications.
- e. Standardized Testing – ILEARN/ARK – The Council reviewed ILEARN results and was presented with a chart comparing Indiana state-wide

results, Archdiocese of Indianapolis results, and Brownsburg school results. The chart reviewed proficiency standards for grades 3-8. There will be 3 check-point windows during the 2024-25 school year where ILEARN testing will take place. The assessments will take place when the teacher believes that the class has mastered the material. There is a single chance to retake an ILEARN test if a passing score was not achieved during the first exam. For ILEARN reading, students will be reading and answering questions about specific passages. IMAP will be used for K-2 to screen those students for dyslexic characteristics. This will be a new requirement this year for private schools like St. Malachy.

Mrs. Kennison noted that teachers are doing a great job teaching English and math but also instilling a joy in students learning the material.

Father Danda noted that the school is on the right track, but also that there is a large focus on STEM right now that may lose focus on other aspects of the human being. Fine arts and other elements are important to make people whole. We need to ensure that St. Malachy keeps the Catholic mission in mind to educate the entire person. It is important that endeavoring for academic excellence does not overtake the emphasis of nurturing the entire person.

Mrs. McCluskey noted the fine arts program had made great strides in 10 years and presents amazing opportunities for students. The St. Malachy band continues to grow. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade make the commitment they will participate in band during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade school year.

Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) testing takes place at St. Malachy. The window for ARK testing is the same as ILEARN. Categories are Creed and Salvation; History; Discipleship; Beliefs and Behavior; and Prayer and Virtue.

- f. Attendance has been good at the start of the school year. Currently more than 95% in attendance. Every student with 95% plus attendance will receive a “hand”, and if enough students receive a hand, there will be a movie at the end of the school year. Attendance contracts will also be put in place for students with lower attendance percentages.

4. NSBECS – The Archdiocese will be conducting the NSBECS evaluation on Nov. 6th. NSBECS is the continuous improvement program sponsored by the Archdiocese that monitors a school’s progress toward meeting an excellence standard for Catholic Education. Mrs. Selby and Mrs. Nesbit will be assisting with reporting certain parameters. Teachers have assisted in preparing academic excellence documentation. All items are currently on track. Mrs. Kennison has established committees to assist with the various responses. Council members need to be available on Nov. 6 to answer questions from the Archdiocesan interviewers.

5. Finance Council – The Council discussed adding a field trip fee that would be added into tuition. PTO currently budgets \$500 per grade level for 2 field trips a year. That money goes to transportation expenses. Cardinal Ritter charges for use of its bus, and it is \$250 for a single round trip. Mrs. Kennison would like to do a study of the overall costs of field trips to make the long-term budgeting more predictable. Mrs. Capps asked if PTO should be tasked with a specific amount to fundraise for. The Finance Council is working on updated financial reporting that will be released soon.

6. For the Good of the Cause – Anthony Bosso is now the Director of Liturgy for St. Malachy Church and will no longer be serving on the Council due to these new responsibilities. The discernment of the replacement of that position is to be determined.

7. The next Council meeting is September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. With no further business to discuss, the Council meeting was adjourned.