

School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

11-7-24

Attendance : Mrs. Kennison, Shaun Hopf, Derek Dant, Father Danda, Tami Scott, Rachel Nesbit, Ruth McCluskey, Amanda Capps

- 1) Opening Prayer – Father Danda led opening prayer
- 2) Minutes Approval – Minutes from last meeting are still being finalized. Council will approve both minutes at the next meeting.
- 3) School Update
 - a. No change in enrollment since last meeting. First grade student being added to enrollment on Dec. 2.
 - b. Continuous Improvement Journey (CIJ) – Reviewers from other Catholic schools observed St. Malachy schools and reviewed operations for academic excellence and Catholic identity. This is part of an Archdiocese process for continual improvement of Catholic schools. The review was very positive and a comment was shared that St. Malachy is what a faith filled Catholic school should look like.

This particular review team (the Team) was primarily composed of principals. The Team suggested that St. Malachy should look for more opportunities for student driven service opportunities. Regarding leadership and governance, the Team asked for more evidence. As an example, they asked for evidence that the principal leads prayer. The Team suggested that policies should be written down more formally for these functions. The Team suggested a longer term budget plan, in the 5-year range, for planning purposes. This suggestion may not recognize St. Malachy's unique position as a larger school/church with more resources.

The Team suggested St. Malachy needed to develop a succession plan for Council members. The recommendation did not recognize that this process has already been put in place and adopted in the Council bylaws. The Team asked how Council members were chosen. The Team also suggested that more prayer opportunities need to come from the school instead of leaning heavily on the church. The Team noted that St. Malachy does not have an assistant Principal and that we do not have a marketing committee.

Overall, the review was very positive and suggestions for improvement largely on track to be implemented already.

- c. 8th Grade Trip Eligibility – A subgroup met and developed a Student Eligibility for the 8th Grade Class Trip. The Eligibility Form is based on academic infractions, not other behavioral considerations. There is also an opportunity to consider improvement for students who may have become ineligible. The Eligibility Form was shared with parents and received no negative feedback.
 - d. Shamrock Spectacular – The idea of bingo is being discussed as an activity for the Spectacular. The event would take place after Saturday night Mass on May 17. There would be a cocktail hour with drinks and light appetizers and bingo would begin after the cocktail hour. Bingo would be an opportunity but folks could continue to socialize and not play bingo. The concept of bingo was not recommended by the council as the main theme.
Suggestions to focus on from the committee:
 - Could there still be a time to spotlight students?
 - Generally, the Council believed the bingo would not work to squeeze into the original format.
 - It was suggested that we should bring back kid craft arts from school classes at St. Malachy.
 - If the event is on a Saturday night, it should have a party format.
 - The ask for money should be formalized. Tell the participants the goal for the night and what it will be used for. An announcement can be made to tally the money collected through the night.
- 4) Succession planning – The bylaws contain language on succession planning. There will need to be a method to solicit parents to serve on the Council. This should take place in February. Parents will need a way to receive and return applications. Sandra and Father Danda will review applications to ensure parents are eligible to serve. There will be a process for current Council members to make a recommendation to Father Danda and Mrs. Kennison. June 2025 will be the last meeting for Council members existing in the first round of transition.
 - 5) Finance Council – Father Danda talked about future planning for the parish.
 - 6) For the Good of the Cause – Agenda items for next time – alumni relations; choice scholarships expanding universally and any program changes related thereto; upcoming curriculum changes; hearing from other ministries such as

athletics; adding a literacy coach to the St. Malachy staff; third grade retention goes into effect this year – looking at curriculum to ensure best possible outcomes with reading; safety update with new security system.