

School Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
1.9.2025

1. Opening Prayer – Father Danda led the Council in opening prayer.
2. Minutes – the Council discussed the prior minutes from the October and November minutes. Changes were made for better clarification of certain items. Mr. Zarich made a motion to approve the October 2024 and November 2024 minutes. Mr. Hopf seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Succession plan – The Council discussed succession planning. An open seat exists due to Mr. Basso stepping off of the Council. Fr. Danda noted that solicitation for the Council did not need to occur at mass. Father asked for guidance on the best way to advertise the council and solicit parent involvement. A council member suggested an all-school email from the Council. It was also suggested announcing it at a PTO meeting would generate interest. Mr. Harker producing a video of the Council is also an option. Fr. Danda suggested not using social media in order to have a more formal process. We would like to drive parent attention through formal school communication channels.

The solicitation should make clear the purpose of the Council and that it is advisory in nature. The Council will consider different skill sets that may be helpful in conducting business, but there is no particular background necessary to apply. The Executive Committee will work on an initial solicitation draft. A video may not be necessary, but a photo of Council or current Council members may be helpful. Father will be able to announce at Mass, and Council members could be available in the Narthex after Mass. `

The Discernment meeting for candidates will be at the April 10th Council meeting. Applications should be in by March 28th (Friday before Spring Break). The Vice Chair will move into the Chair position upon completion of the Chair's term. The Secretary is separately elected with each Council without succession being formalized.

4. School update
 - a. Enrollment – Currently at 511 students.
 - b. Registration for current families – information and documents are ready to send. Will be going out Monday, January 13. Request to receive back will be Wednesday, January 22. Links to complete registration will be included. Information on updated tuition and service hour deposit will be included with a write-up to explain. Mrs. Kennison will send a write-up why the service fee was increased to \$400. It is not about the money but about involvement and volunteering at the school. This saves the school money and improves parent participation, which helps further the mission of the school. We had a volunteer from the Council offer to help draft a

paragraph to accompany Mrs. Kennison's. St. Malachy has student hours and student opportunities.

Mrs. Kennison likes to have parent learning opportunities. These are presentations for parents to learn information to assist with parenting. Should parents receive a service hour for attending the event? A council member said it makes sense to extend service hours for some events but not others. As an example, a back-to-school night would not qualify. Another member liked the idea of extending the service hour credit for certain events. She provided the district attorney presentation as an example of a qualified example. Fr. Danda noted it is helpful considering what events help further the mission of the school and church and what can assist parents raise their kids.

Fr. Danda asked if we should change the "service hour" term. Should it include a focus on "partnering" or other terminology to help better understand the purpose behind the name. This is considered in light of the fact that the increase to \$400 was not to raise revenue, but to build a better community through participation. Mrs. Kennison noted that the Office of Catholic Schools recently sent out a memo on the supernatural mission of Catholic schools.

TUITION – Mrs. Kennison provided the Council updated tuition rates for K-8 and preschool rates. The Finance Council approved the 4% tuition increase recommended by the Council in a prior meeting. The School expects to add 13 students next school year over the current school year. The Finance Council considered the tuition rate for the preschool with the intention to ensure we can continue to provide a quality preschool education. The Finance Council recommendation for preschool was a 7% increase. This increase will be implemented for the 2025-26 preschool year. The strategy is to increase by 7% for three years to move closer to the cost of K-8 education. After three years, the preschool rate increases would mirror the K-8 school.

The question was asked if the program would be sustainable if a certain number of kids dropped because of the cost. Additionally, it was asked about the percentage of preschool kids who attend K-8. That number is north of 90%, so the preschool program does funnel into the grade school. What is the consequence of not raising rates? Can we maintain the quality? The Shamrock family scholarship is also available to preschool families to assist with tuition. Another member asked if the model moving forward may be a higher rate with fewer students.

The unanimous consensus of the Council was that the increase was necessary to maintain a quality Catholic preschool program.

- c. Open House is January 26, 2025 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Council is encouraged to attend and wear name tags.
- d. Mrs. Kennison will be doing articles about IREAD that will be sent to all families. IREAD relates to the new reading proficiency levels needed by 3rd graders to advance to 4th grade. Mrs. Kennison needs to consider what the policy should be for 3rd graders who do not pass. If a student doesn't pass in the Spring, they get a separate attempt for summer study and a subsequent chance for passage. If everyone in 2nd grade registers for 3rd grade, there will be 52 students enrolling into the 3rd grade. If the 3rd grade would grow beyond this number because current 3rd graders did not show reading proficiency, an additional aid would be added to 3rd grade to address the class size. Brownsburg will be providing summer study for St. Malachy 3rd graders not demonstrating proficiency. Brownsburg will not be providing summer study for 2nd graders testing at "at risk".

It will be important for parents to receive clear communications and also emphasized how important it is to emphasize passage. St. Malachy currently has a plan implemented with most highly trained teachers working with kids identified as at risk or on the bubble.

5. For the good the cause: A council member brought up addressing shortening the late line and getting traffic off 750 N.
6. Next meeting is February 6, 2025 at 6 p.m.
7. Fr. Danda ended the meeting with a prayer.