

Education Committee Meeting Notes March 19, 2024

In attendance: (Chair) Craig Smits / (Dean) Fr. Schaller / (President) Dan Minter

Commission Members:

St. Lawrence: Debbie Schoenick
Holy Rosary: Tania Halbersma
Our Lady: Angela Peters
St. Peter & Paul: Jim Dolan
St. Joachim: Bill Rosandick

ACS Leadership Members:

SVDP: Pam Fochs
OLQH: Shelley Bruley
HS/MS: Jimmy Lynch
Enrollment: Kerry Meinel
Advancement: Matthew Zakowski

ACS Teacher/Staff Reps:

K-5: Amber Carroll
6-12: Mary LaCasse

ACS Groups:

Athletics: Bob Birkhauser
Royal Parents: Jill Vruwink, Nikki Kester & Lindsay Graumann

Parish Leadership:

OLQH: Father Guanella
ACS Chaplain: Fr. Weller

Diocesan Leadership

Tom Reichenbacher, Superintendent
Jack Felsheim, Finance

7:10 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Mission Statement

Examples as to how we are “living” our mission in our schools and parishes.

- Everyone commented on the recent Talent Show. “Top Notch”, “High Quality”, “God Centered”...
- A beautiful representation of Assumption Catholic Schools. Well received by all who attended.

Calendar Highlights

- As per suggestions from the Parent Survey, dates of note are being added on the website calendar for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This is a live calendar that will continue to be added to and updated.

Presidents Report

- WI Act 20. Our K-5 principals are deep into planning making sure we are compliant with the guidelines set for Act 20. A majority of the guidelines are phonics based and since we already use phonics, we are in good shape.
- Search is underway for a new ACS Controller. A couple of interviews have been set up for next week.
- SCRIP office will be moved this summer. Entrance will be off of Mead Street. This will greatly reduce access to the school building.
- All Monday's next year will be late start due to having to follow the WRPS schedule. The bus company would not have the drivers nor budget to drive ACS students separately from the WRPS students on Monday's.
 - K-12 principals are working to develop a plan that is appropriate for each building.
- Interviews for controller will be held in the next 2 weeks.

- The article in the Daily Tribune regarding WRPS School Board nominees was brought to Mr. Minter's attention as concerning. As their talking points are typical and nothing original from previous years, ACS will not be addressing or commenting on the article.

School Reports

- OLQH: Nothing new to add to the report that was submitted.
- SV: Nothing new to add to the report that was submitted.
- HS/MS
 - Students are in the midst of lots of testing. ACT, WI Forward, and ITBS
 - Mr. Lynch recently attended the Accreditation Conference in Chippewa and he stated that it was good to meet with other principals and see what they are doing in their schools.
 - MS students recently participated in Forensics.
 - Talent Show #2 has been completed and was a success.

Enrollment

- Lots of reminders are being sent out to families to enroll. This is important so we can plan for the upcoming school year.
- April 18th is the Choice Application deadline.
- Question was raised regarding how many students have withdrawn since the beginning of the year.
 - Breakdown is as follows:
 - 10 – online or home school
(2 medical / 2 conflict w/ ACS values / 1 financial / 5 workload at ACS too much for them)
 - 5 – Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools
 - 1 – Nekoosa Public
 - 1 – moved out of state
 - 1 – dismissed
 - 1 - expelled

Athletic Report

- Cash Sweepstake Drawing will be held on May 19th.
- Spring Sports are underway – hoping the weather holds out ☺
- Friday, August 2nd is the tentative date for ACS Night at the Rafters
- Brief comment was made regarding the public comments on the WIAA site after the conclusion of the State Basketball Tournaments. Many people continue to comment that the winners are overwhelmingly always Private Schools vs Public School and something needs to change. Ultimately we know their perception is not based on reality.
- July 19th is the date of Golf Scramble
 - Question was raised what the money is used for.
 - All profits are directly used for Athletics
 - Question was raised regarding volunteers for Cranberry Classic vs Golf Scramble
 - All athletes are asked to volunteer either for the Cranberry Classic or Golf Scramble
 - Emails go out to families explaining volunteer opportunities

Royal Parents

- Bingo has been extremely successful this year, allowing for a surplus of funds available. We can all help keep the momentum going by spreading the word and filling up the gym for the final Bingo dates of the year.
 - RP is looking into the rules and RP is hoping to be able to distribute \$200 into each class account (K-12). This money will be able to be used as needed.

Advancement

- Matt commented that he is still absorbing and learning the culture of Assumption Catholic Schools. He continues to feel blessed to work for this organization.

- The Run the Rapids event has taken on a whole new meaning since coming to Assumption. He has been proud to learn how much the Catholic Church does for abused children.
- Working on the next Raised Royal Newsletter.
- It was shared that he recently received a donation in the amount of \$5000 for the Feed My Sheep Fund. He commented that people believe in our mission and have trust in ACS.
- Ed Altmann recently passed away and it was indicated in his obituary that funds can be donated to ACS.

Unfinished Business:

- Parent Survey next steps
 - Continue to update the 24/25 Calendar on website
 - Work on better overall communication – stop assuming people know.
 - Finalize a financial report to share with families and parishes
 - Continue with work on concerns, making it clear that everyone understands change will not happen overnight and that nothing is being “swept under the rug”.

New Business

- 2022-2027 Strategic Plan
 - Plan was last reviewed in Aug 2022.
 - Administration team review the goals and is pleased to report that good progress that has been made.
 - Dan Minter will send out an email to all families reminding them that the Strategic Plan, along with the progress made, can be viewed on our website.
 - Comment was made regarding the Strategic Plan to build a new facility.
 - Some plans are realistic and some are more “wish list”
 - Approximately 20-30 million would be needed for a new building.
 - The best fundraiser ACS has ever had, generated \$400,000.
 - A couple of recommendations were made.
 - 1. We would get a quote to see what actual cost would be.
 - 2. Reach out to Renaissance (on Peach St) to see if they would be willing to sell (and at what cost)
 - 3. Make a new building a goal...Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
 - Research for more staff development opportunities have been researched. (per parent survey rec)
 - Program called “Master Teacher” with over 100 staff development programs looks to be a good program to utilize.
 - Teachers will be meeting with each teacher to go over their yearly ProGrow forms making sure they are meeting their goals.

Questions from the floor

- Do we have a timeline for when we will have a new controller?
 - Interviews are happening in the next couple of weeks and applications are still open.
- Who is handling financial issues in the meantime?
 - Financial Assistant: Destiny Wiltzuis (newly hired) is answering calls and Dan Minter is helping with any questions she may have.
 - The Diocese also has controllers from Marshfield Columbus and Pacelli offering us assistance in the interim.

Next Meeting

- **Tuesday, April 16th @ 7:00pm**
 - Any items you would like added to the agenda, please email Brad Matott @ bsmsm399@wctc.net.

Closing Prayer

Meeting Adjourned 7:58pm