

St. Brigid of Kildare Parish
Standardized Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

Who: SAC
Prepared By: Michelle Loudon
When: February 14, 2022
Where: Via ZOOM - 6:30 PM

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer - Karen Steinbrunner & Jill Kilanowski

2. Attendees

Kathy O'Reilly, Principal	Monsignor Joseph Hendricks, Pastor
Karen Steinbrunner (Chair - 4)	Cindy Lombardo, Vice Principal
Jill Kilanowski (Vice Chair - 3)	Jill Carfagna, Assistant Principal
Michelle Loudon (Secretary - 4)	Hillary Harper, Preschool Director
Jennifer Roncone (4)	Sara Reville (3)
Zach Haughwout (2)	Derek Hegarty (2)
Stacy Austin (2)	Jaime Shiovone (2)
Jen Obers (H & S)	

Absentees

Dan Creekmur (3)
Leila Ulrich (H & S)

3. Review/Accept Past Minutes.

- Approve meeting minutes from the November 8, 2021 Zoom Meeting - Approved by Jaime Shiovone and seconded by Zach Haughwout.

4. New Business

- **Pastor's Report (Monsignor Hendricks)**
 - Monsignor reported that Deacon Don has now fully retired. He will be 70 shortly and he decided it was a good time to retire. He will remain in the Parish and asked that no ceremony be held.
 - Laura Ginikos had a baby boy - 9 lb. 5 oz. and will be out for 12 weeks. All are doing well.
 - Katherine Florian completed her Master of Arts degree in Liturgical Music.

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- The children will be returning to in-person Mass on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM. At this time, they are not permitted to do readings, serve Mass, etc. There is a period of re-training that will need to take place.
 - At this time, a strong recommendation for masking will continue in the church.
 - The Steering Committee and Finance Committees will continue to meet virtually.
 - The Parish Staff has been working on Lenten activities:
 - No Soup Suppers at this time during Lent
 - Tuesday evening Stations of the Cross at 7 pm.
 - Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00 AM for the School children along with additional Masses at Noon and 7 pm
 - Watch for additional news in the bulletin
 - Monsignor reported that he will continue to serve in his roles for the Diocese as Chair on 2 housing communities and the Chair of Finance Committee for St. Mary's German Village
 - Diocesan Priests met recently to discuss Real Presence Real Future progress. It had been suggested for St. Brigid to collaborate with St. Joseph in Plain City and Monsignor has objected due to the differences in the communities/cultures of the parishes. No real news as of yet on new Bishop. This process may look a little drastic to some. The ArchDiocese of Cincinnati has recently gone through a similar process and is going from 238 Parishes to 57. Again as a reminder, much of this process is to address the shortage of Diocesan priests which will be less than 60 in the year 2030.
- **Principal's Report (Kathy O'Reilly)**
 - Valentine's Day was a great day and helped with the new mask optional policy. From her perspective, she was prepared for more children to have masks on, but many did not. Had lot of COVID cases in January, but the last 2-3 weeks have been coming down. Staffing was particularly tricky in January and most spread was identified to be from activities/contacts outside of school. Curious to see what will happen with common cold, STREP, flu, etc.
 - As we prepared for the mask optional policy, she met with teacher teams to identify everything that we might need. They are trying to stress teachable moments and being kind as we all adjust to the new policy. We have counselors on board to help children with this if needed and we are still keeping social distancing at lunch and as required in the classrooms for now. We continue to encourage hand washing and sanitizing. Water fountains will remain off for the time being since water bottle fillers have been so successful. Wipes and K95 masks are available to those who request them.
 - Dublin transportation contacted Kathy to ask her to remind students that masks are still required on the bus as part of the mandate for public transportation. We will be giving drivers boxes of masks if needed.
 - Enrollment Report - We have taken 75 for Kindergarten (normally take 72 - but took a few extra) and there are 17 on the waitlist. We have had 9 withdrawals. Four of the withdrawals were from Kindergarten students who fully intended to attend 1st grade in public schools. If morning Latchkey becomes an issue for withdrawals, we will consider adding if demand is there.
 - Pre-School Enrollment and Report (Hillary Harper) - The enrollment report for pre-school was reviewed. The biggest hurdle for preschool enrollment at the time seems to be attracting families with older siblings in other schools to keep their pre-schooler in St. Brigid. If anyone has any ideas of how to entice these families to continue on with Kindergarten at St. Brigid, please let Hillary know. The preschool staff and students look forward to returning to the main school building in the fall.

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- Open House - had about 85 in attendance with about 12 great volunteers. Meredith Dorley trained the volunteers/tour guides. The attendees seemed to gather good information and asked a lot of good questions. Hillary mentioned that she really liked the format where families had a certain time to show up so they could get more individualized attention. Cindy appreciated that much of the interest seems to be stemming from our culture and values. She commented that she expects to see more of this interest due to our secular society.
- Standards Based Grading Response (Jill Carfagna) - In response to questions/concerns raised at the November SAC Call, Jill reviewed again why Standards Based Grading is embraced by the Diocese for Elementary/Middle Schools. St. Brigid is focused more on learning the material as opposed to any certain number or percentage and children's progress is viewed more on a continuum as opposed to just getting a grade. This form of grading and focusing on learning the material should help students learn to advocate for themselves more when they are not understanding or getting the material. It was suggested that more instruction be given to children in the middle grades - maybe beginning as early as 6th grade as to how things might change in high school and what they might expect. Sara raised the point that all children are different and there might be some who are struggling with the social/emotional reality that they are afraid/shy to advocate for themselves and admit to a teacher that they do not know the material or are struggling. It is important to teach children about when and how to ask for help and that it is NOT a sign of weakness. It was also brought up that if the Diocese requires the lower grades to have this type of system, would they ever see the high schools changing to standards based grading? Cindy thought that this might be looked at in the future, but not anytime soon. It was brought up that parents often just have anxiety about how their children are doing and anything that we can do to help educate the parents on how and why we have this type of grading would be helpful. It was also recognized that motivating students, particularly middle schoolers is particularly challenging right now. Project based learning (PBL) will also help with the application piece and help all involved to understand what/why they are learning and how they are being evaluated. Basically, parent education and student advocacy are the two major areas that this group would like to see concentration on so that all better understand how/why our students are evaluated in this manner.
- PE Uniform Discussion (Cindy Lombardo) - Cindy reminded the committee members that a very important piece of our existence is our Catholic Identity and it has been historical to use the uniform as part of our identity so that children concentrate on the whole person, not just their external clothing. She continued to report that St. Brigid is at an all time low in compliance with dress code, particularly in the area of the gym uniform that was instituted in the past 2 years. She has tried everything she can think of to get students in compliance, but is not having luck. Due to this extremely low compliance rate (about 40% in compliance) she suggested the following three options:
 1. Do nothing - afraid compliance rates will continue to go down.
 2. Have the children wear their regular uniform for PE.
 3. Find a way to make a change that may encourage compliance. It was suggested that this change would consist of moving to a hunter green jacket and pants that would be available from the uniform store only and a gray St. Brigid PE tshirt. This change would be grandfathered in with the old uniform pieces being replaced with the newly approved ones over a period of 2 years with full compliance by 24/25 school year.

Committee members engaged in discussion regarding the current non compliance issues being anything from stripes, logos, fleece, capris, etc. There is a mixture of repeat offenders and one of the committee members

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brought up the fact that some children may only have a single gym uniform and it gets complicated with some home situations and children moving between parents as to whether they have an appropriate uniform on any given day OR if the children are just being allowed to choose and the adherence to the uniform policy is not being taken seriously. Another committee member wanted to make sure that the adherence to our mission is strongly emphasized in communication or explanation to the parents so that they do not think this is a relatively “small” issue when we have so many other things dealing with our restrictions such as getting the children involved in Mass, etc., so that they do not think we are focusing on minute instead of big picture items. Cindy re-emphasized the importance of staying true to our mission and whatever the issues at hand, the main issue is non-compliance with the current policy so may consider getting rid of the gym uniform altogether. Committee members were asked to direct any further insight to this issue of non compliance with the dress code to Cindy Lombardo, including suggestions for encouraging compliance, timeline for new uniform, etc.

5. Standing Committee Reports

- **Home and School Report** - Jen Obers reported that they had a great uniform exchange on January 30. Today the children had special Valentine activities and treats - especially ice cream from Dell's. Spirit Wear store should be open during March. Super Games is on the calendar for May 27. They are doing some “soft planning” on Hounds Hoopla in hopes of maybe holding something in the spring or near the kick off for the next school year. Biztown is back, but as we are noticing when researching many field trips, the costs have gone up dramatically. (For example, Biztown used to be about \$25 per child, and it is now about \$40 per child). The budget is generally about \$10 per child for field trips for grades K-7 (exception is Biztown) which has traditionally worked, but now \$10 per child is not realistic for any grade level since entrance fees and bus fees have greatly increased. This will affect what we need to raise in the annual fund and we may suggest that parents consider a larger donation per child. Our current suggested amount has not been changed in quite a few years. Stay tuned for more information on that item. We have raised about \$39,000 with the annual fund. They have had success with recruiting new chairs for the various committees and executive positions of Home & School.
- **SPICE Report** - They had a successful meeting in January highlighting high school success. Corks is in the planning stages. It was suggested that it would be really nice to get an invitation in the backpacks again for all students.

6. Future SAC Committee (Karen Steinbrunner/Kathy O'Reilly)

1. Kathy asked Alli to remove SAC meetings from the school calendar so that they are not seen as “open” meetings.
2. Need to look at application questions for all potential SAC members.
3. Charter for our SAC Committee needs to be reviewed and updated, with special attention to succession planning/terms, etc.

If you have an interest in helping with the application or the charter, please let Kathy or Karen know ASAP. In addition, if you know anyone who might be an asset to SAC, please let Karen or Kathy know. We have run into a bit of an issue with the Executive Committee people all rolling off at the same time. Several years ago, Monsignor asked the Executive Committee to stay on for consistency, so at the time those members stayed for a fourth year. There are three additional members (Karen, Michelle and Jen that also stayed an additional year). However, we have run into succession issues again with many members rolling off at the same time, especially those on Exec. Committee. These issues need to be addressed in the Charter and clarified so that we know for the new members coming on for next school year the process in place.

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7. Date/Time of Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM (slight change with spring break). Again, we hope to be in person, but information will come out regarding this issue prior to the March meeting.

8. Closing Prayer