

**'St. Catherine of Siena  
School Advisory Board  
January 22, 2018 at 7pm**

**I. Call to Order**

- A. Opening Prayer: Fr. Ryan.

**II. Routine Matters**

- A. In attendance: Fr. John Ryan, Sr. Antonella, Mrs. Mayi Apour, Mr. Nathan Au, Mrs. Patty Bandel, Mrs. Christine Engstrom, Mrs. Kia Germino, Mrs. Tammy Kiely, Mrs. Lucy Lozano, Mr. Michael Stallman.
- B. Review and Approval of November 20th Meeting Minutes — Approved.

**III. Information**

- A. Pastor's Report: Fr. Ryan

Christmas has passed and the life of the parish has settled again. Fr. Tuan is due back in a number of weeks. Fr. Gerry's situation is more complex. He will be at Atria for yet a few more weeks, and wishes to come back, but much depends on his further recovery. Even with reduced staff and help the parish got through the Christmas festivities fine. The crowds were significant, but now we are looking forward toward Lent. Confirmation will be at the end of March. The buildings have withstood the rains well, save for a slight preexisting leak in the tower. The past few years have seen a lot of work on the roofs, and the roofing company comes each Fall to check everything. Another phase of the stained-glass restoration is coming up.

- B. Principal's Report: Sr. Antonella

Progress report midterms have gone home for third grade and up. In the second half of the trimester we expect an even higher level of achievement. Eighth graders have finished their high school applications; they have all taken their high entrance tests, but the results are not yet available. The eighth graders reportedly found the test much easier than they expected. More than half the class applied to Catholic Schools. In January we are doing the safety program, Virtus, which is mandatory from the Archdiocese, and also Family Life for the students at the same time. First and second graders had hearing tests and everyone passed.

Friday, February 1st is an educators' conference, which is why no school. This year's topic is faith formation. For the past several years it has focused on education more generally. The science fair is coming up for the seventh and eighth graders. Projects will be displayed during Catholic Schools Week and Open House. There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, January 29.

Kindergarten applicant tests have begun. The number of applications has increased relative to last year. We hope for yet more during the Open House. Field trips are still going on. Tomorrow, the 5th grade will go to the Cathedral, returning around 1:30PM. They will take a tour, hear Mass, and then have lunch. Monday is graduation pictures. The eighth graders are already having that feeling that they're nearing the end of their time here.

**IV. Committee Reports**

- A. Sports: Mrs. Engstrom

Results are available at the PPSL website: Boys Grade 7, Division 2 were in 3rd place. Boys 6th grade were in 1st place. Boys 4th grade training team were in 1st place. The JV 7th Grade Girls are in 1st grade. The Grade 6 girls, division 3, are in 4th place.

A new change this year is scorekeeping for the 4th grade (training team) games. Parents and coaches are advocating to reverse the decision and return next year to again not keeping score. Parents are

being reminded again that everyone needs to behave themselves at the games.

The Boys Athletic Director has moved out of the area to Oregon. Mr. Wong was appointed to take his place. Two parents will split the commissioner responsibilities for volleyball, basketball, and basketball. The school is also seeking a replacement for the current cheerleading coach, who after twenty years in the position will step down when her youngest child graduates this year. There is a new after school basketball program for grades K,1,2,3, which began last week.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Renaissance Star testing: Mrs. Bandel.**

Small test-score charts have been posted around the school for Open House. The teachers are working with certain children who need a little extra help to get them out of red zones. The teachers are using the differentiated instruction strategies developed in the Fall and working with the children to help them succeed. In February the K – 8<sup>th</sup> graders begin STAR testing again for the third go-round. An entire faculty meeting was spent reviewing the results, not just on a per-class basis but also on a per-student basis. Each teacher set two goals to work on the rest of the year. The faculty spent another entire faculty meeting checking the work each other is doing, whether goals are being met, and what challenges they're facing. Mrs. Kiely asked whether the standardized test scores correlate with GPA, and Sr. Antonella says mostly they do. Some children do not test well, but for the most part children with strong test scores also have high grades. Sr. Antonella is interested to compare our students to the archdiocese as a whole. The first-grade students have the option to take either of two tests — 'early literacy' and 'probable readers'—depending on child proficiency.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Catholic Schools Week & Open House: Mrs. Kiely**

Open House will follow the 9AM Catholic Schools Week Mass. Sr. Antonella needs support from the board to welcome inquiring families, provide directions, answer questions about the school, and encourage people to fill out an application. Mrs. Kiely offered to pick up 6 balloons in green and white. Parents with young children, still in preschool, will be mostly interested in the Kindergarten classroom to have an idea what the school is about. Sr. Antonella already secured volunteers to bring cookies (A good opportunity for service hours.) Always there are some people who ask for the application that same day. Fr Ryan's concern always is safety in the busy parking lot. Children will wear their uniforms in exchange for free dress on Monday, following the rules.

### **B. 2019–2020 Budget and Tuition Proposal: Mrs. Apour**

Finance committee met and approved the budget. They have recommended a tuition increase. The school continues to be financially strong, even with lower attendance in Kindergarten. New maintenance — sidewalk outside the school. The Script requirement is extended for another year. The school's largest expense is salaries, which are this year the highest ever. Utilities are also higher. The archdiocese is trying to attract and retain teaching talent, which involves higher compensation. We also wish to increase tuitions gradually as costs creep up, rather than having to make drastic adjustments later. Also, families are reminded to use your corporate matching for fundraisers!

## **VII. Comments from the Floor**

### **A. Drama is May 10, 11, 17, 18, which is later than usual because of various reasons.**

## **VIII. Adjournment.**