

St. Catherine of Siena School Advisory Board

May 21, 2019 at 7pm

I. Call to Order

- A. Opening Prayer: Sr. Antonella

II. Routine Matters

- A. In attendance: Sr. Antonella, Mrs. Mayi Apour, Mr. Nathan Au, Mrs. Colleen Crespo, Mrs. Christine Engstrom, Mrs. Kia Germino, Mrs. Tammy Kiely, Mrs. Fany Mayfield, Mr. John Scarcella, Mr. Michael Stallman. Jeanne Meinhardt
- B. Not in attendance: Fr. Ryan, Mrs. Dana Dwyer
- C. Review and Approval of February Meeting Minutes. Approved with one correction: Mrs. Meinhardt was left off the April minutes.

III. Information

- A. Principal's Report: Sr. Antonella.

Fr. Ryan is in Ireland. First Communion was wonderful, and the children were very good in Church. Mrs. Engstrom reports on the successful end of the drama season. They sold out every night, which is a great sign. The children enjoy performing and bonding through the many rehearsals. Mr. Miller took an emotional final bow. Sr. Antonella reports the Spellathon awards have gone out. Prizes were awarded for all but first place, who receives their special thing next week. Everyone did a wonderful job. Spellathon sponsorship donations will fully fund our field trips for next year.

Music presentations were great. The younger grades were cute, while the older ones especially did a great job. It was nice to see so many parents in attendance. Field trips are still on-going. Student government elections are going on, and the candidates made their speeches today. Peer tutoring concluded last week; study hall is this week, and finals are next week. More than fifty children are in the school band; next Friday it will end with a party. Next week is spirit week, with a special event every day. The St. Vincent de Paul lunch program has completed for the year. The New Families gathering is June 2. Eighth grade parent/teacher dinner is next week, and graduation is on June 5, with Mass in the morning and the commencement in the afternoon.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Sports: Mrs. Engstrom.

Track ended 10/17 schools. Eighth grade girls finished 3rd of 17. Volleyball and Baseball applications are coming in, and children from the parish CCD are also invited. Cheer camp papers are coming in. Basketball camp will be M-F the week after school lets out. Mercy High School is using the gym mid-summer, then the floors need cleaning. It will be ready to use again on August 10.

- B. Technology: Mrs. Bandel.

Mrs. Bandel has been busy ordering new supplies for next year. New iPads have been purchased for First Grade, paid for by donations from the Women's Club, with the difference made up by the Men's club. The current Fourth Grade Chromebooks will move with them to Fifth Grade. The older iPads currently used by Fifth Grade will move to Kindergarten. The Chromebooks used by the current Eighth Grade will go to next year's Sixth Grade class. The school will purchase charging carts and iPad covers. The school contracts with the company Bonsai to check and update all the equipment over the summer, so they are ready and fresh for the Fall. The school website is also being updated; a photographer came in to update the Beehively site with new professional photos. The student body elections are being conducted all electronically for the first time this year. Last year electronic ballots were used by the middle school grades. It's much easier for the office staff not to have to manually count ballots.

- C. Finance: Mrs. Apour.

The school has a projected surplus for the end of the year, but there are some expenses not accounted for in the books yet: new textbooks for next year; technology outlays; summer repairs for

the school. The school is still collecting tuition, registration, and after-school care bills. Donations are up this year, and overall the school is financially sound. Sister Antonella reports that bills for summer work will be huge. First, a company will come the week of June 10th to fix the schoolyard and stabilize the shifting ground. They will re-level the blacktop. Second, the sidewalk on Bayswater and on Park Road require repair to level some up the uneven sections. The school is responsible for the sidewalk around the property, and these repairs will be very costly. Third, the windows need some care and attention. Some are in bad shape and need professional cleaning. This work is scheduled to begin immediately after school gets out. Fourth, there is the regular summertime cleaning and repainting of the school.

Textbooks have just been finalized the other day. We will have a new science book. The intention was to change the entire school, but lower grades were not ready. For now it will be purchased for grades six through eight only. The teachers attended a whole-day workshop on the new books. The teachers for the younger grades will attend the workshops next year, and then the entire school will transition to the new books. They are very expensive. The science books come with an electronic version so students don't need to take the physical books home each night, but in the classroom the physical books are important. The science books are a consumable which the students will write in. Next year we will also get new social studies books. Sr. Antonella wants to keep the Scrip program for the following year as well; it's not high, but it's around \$12k profit. Decreased per-family \$2k requirement per family; it was \$4k. Mrs. O'Leary reports the amazon thing is ok.

- D. Mrs. Bandel reports on the Star Testing results from the year. Grade equivalence grew in every grade. Teachers are collating results and putting together goals for next year. There will be reports for the children. Sister Antonella informs us the Archdiocese is trying to push academics performance as high as possible. For any test, if you look at the results, fiftieth percentile is average, but this is not good enough. Anyone at the fiftieth percentile will be pushed for improvement, and this was communicated at the last archdiocesan principals meeting. We thought this new effort was coming next year, but they're pushing right now. St. Catherine's is already at this mark and doesn't have to worry much. Mrs. Bandel says parents are often surprised when their graduating eighth graders test out of freshman algebra.

V. Old Business

- A. none.

VI. New Business

- A. Next year's board: Mrs. Kiely.
Mrs. Mayfield was chosen at random to serve the available one-year term; the remaining new members will serve three-year terms. Mrs. Kiely reads from Section 5 of the bylaws descriptions of the positions to vote on for next year. Of the five eligible members, Mr. Au was elected in a close vote for chairman, and Mrs. Crespo was elected vice-chair.
- B. Thank you: Mrs Kiely.
Thank you to Mr. Scarcella for hosting the board dinner on June 2nd at Sapore at 6:30PM. Spouses are welcome. RSVP to Mrs. Kiely.

VII. Comments from the Floor

Mrs. Apour says she has enjoyed her time on the Board and will miss everyone. Mrs. Kiely, though leaving the school, will still accept solicitations for Women's Club and drama donations. She looks forward to being involved at Serra, where there is a great community of St. Catherine alumni.

VIII. Adjournment.