

School Committee Minutes
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
September 12, 2018
East-West Room

Call to Order: Chair Matt Crockett, at 6:37 pm.

Attendance: Rick Artibee,, Michelle Corey, Matt Crockett, Bill Drake, Karen Hicks, Danielle Martin, Mario Medina, Rose McBrearty, Francisco Romero, Colette Scrimger, and Mary Margaret Utess

Unable to attend: Fr. John Byers and Kelly Johnston, with notice; Lisa Galbraith, who alternates with Rose McBrearty.

- ◆ All joined in the **opening verse-and-prayer**, and Matt read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Pastor's Comments** – Father John was unavailable for this meeting.
- ◆ The **August 16th Minutes** had been mailed earlier and Matt asked for any changes. There were none, and the minutes were approved by consent following Danielle's call for the same.
- ◆ **Athletic Advisory Council (Standing) Report** – Athletic Director Bill Devine was unavailable. Members were again encouraged to refer to Bill's ongoing reports in the School Bulletin.
- ◆ **PTO (Standing) Report** – **PTO** met just prior to the committee meeting, and their beginning-of-year agenda was extensive. They reviewed plans and Spirit Activities for the year and encouraged members to lend support for several upcoming programs and initiatives. **PTO officers** this year are president Emily Crockett and vice president Alli Wilcox, Bridget Walsh (secretary), and Kim Drake Morehouse (treasurer).
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Karen provided more information on items that appeared in her report which was mailed to the Committee last week.
 - ** A review of our school's **classroom census**, it is apparent the departure of this year's large Grade 8 group (26 students), when compared to the current K-Class of 18, will result in on-going deficit numbers. Karen will take the concern to our Marketing Group to work on more recruitment of new students.
 - ** Karen mentioned from the principals' meeting there will be a Diocesan initiative this year to work on **Social Studies curriculum**, which will be released later this year. She also related again the success of our Teaching Team on pulling together data for the newly mandated Science SMART Goals. (SMART Goals for Social Studies will be in the future.)
 - ** On the matter of **NWEA testing** that is taking place, the event is being conducted earlier in the day as opposed to the afternoon hours.
 - ** She gave an overview of our school's **'Essential 10' initiative**. It stems from the program Atlanta's nationally acclaimed educator Ron Clark has been recognized for. Karen asked our Teaching Team to choose 10 of Clark's 55 points

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Just Letting You Know” Cont. ... that serve to improve school environment and operation. (For example, middle school points seek to help students become better citizens (sic).

** Karen also led the Committee through the progressive steps of the **middle school discipline policy**, of which all parents with students in those grades have signed-off on already.

** In closing, she also led the Committee through a discussion of a New Business item, i.e., a **review of** certain items in the school **Dress Code**. The Committee offered meaningful input about shoe and sock color, leggings, high-vs.-low cut shoes, etc. Karen will take the suggestions back to the teaching team, and an updated edition of the Dress Code will be published for all. (Of note was that the prevailing theme in the discussion was, “*Common Sense Lives Here.*”)

(**Editor’s Note:** This clarifying notice appeared in the Sept. 14th School Bulletin: “*School Committee reviewed the Uniform Dress Code at their September meeting this week. The following tweak is effective immediately regarding shoes: grey shoes are acceptable along with the previously listed, white, black, brown and navy. Shoes that have colored swooshes or edging are not a problem. High-top sneakers are acceptable. Regarding socks: please do not wear socks other than white, black, navy or grey.*”

- **Members’ Roundtable** – Several questions, comments, and observations arose throughout the meeting. In no particular order, these included:
 - When Colette asked what feedback had been garnered from this summer’s **Moby Max program**, Karen and Mary Margaret indicated it is still being evaluated by the staff. Several parents indicated there was far less ‘pressure’ associated with the program this summer but then were curious about whether the program was as effective as last summer.
 - Karen responded to Colette’s question about where our school is at relative to what “Karen used to do (sic, **academic support**) **for our students** in the past.” Karen told the Committee it is difficult to secure a replacement, as qualified people are already in-place elsewhere. She has gotten some Email addresses of some good leads, and she continues to follow-up on those.
 - Danielle mentioned a late-summer program her nephew was involved in this year that is essentially a **‘math and reading summer camp.’** It was a pay-to-participate two-week session, and it is geared to make learning fun while getting the participants’ minds back-in-gear for the coming school year. She will share more information with Karen and the staff as appropriate.

- **Announcements** –
 - * **Bill** indicated friend **Kizito Ssemakula** has accepted a new position that will require business travel. As such, he has resigned his position on the School Committee and thanked everyone for the experience this past year. (He was pleased he and his family will be able to remain in the parish and in our school.)
 - ** **The updated School Committee Roster** will be mailed out following the “appointment of a new Committee member (by the principal, et al), per the By-Laws.”

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** Bill also offered a heads-up of issues with the **school website**, as it relates to the host parish website. Some pull-downs (i.e., ‘Student Handbook”, etc.) are only looping back to the parish website. Modifications are underway.

- **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for IHM Deacon Bill Fudge; for Nancy Murphy and for Nancy’s mom; for Nancy Fink’s mom; for custodian Al Grill’s health matter; for successful enrollment at our school; for **‘our School Family and the Teaching Team’**; and for all other special intentions.

ADJOURNMENT – Matt adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

<u>Next Meeting:</u>	Date:	Wednesday, October 17, 2018 (Note Oct. 10 th , the normal meeting day is a half-day of school.)
	Location:	IHM East-West Room
	Time:	6:30pm
	Prayer:	All Pray the Opening Prayers
	Mission Statement:	Chair Matt Crockett

Future School Committee Meeting Dates (All Subject to Change)–
November 14
January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10
May 8

Edited and Submitted by Bill Drake, Secretary to the School Committee

“Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School challenges students to discover God’s gifts spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically within a community that nurtures, honors and respects the unique person.”