

School Committee Minutes
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
November 14, 2018
East-West Room

Call to Order: Chair Matt Crockett, at 6:32 pm.

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

Unable to attend: Fr. John Byers and Michelle Corey.

- ◆ All joined in the **opening verse-and-prayer**, and Matt read our **Mission Statement**.
- ◆ **Pastor's Comments** – Father John was unavailable for this meeting.
- ◆ **Jorge Ismael**, the newest School Committee member, re-introduced himself as a representative of Cristo Rey parish, and all the other members exchanged introductions afterwards.
- ◆ The **September 12th and October 17th Minutes** had both been mailed earlier. Danielle moved to approve them; Colette seconded the motion. Consent by all.
- ◆ **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. There was review and discussion about upcoming programming the next two months as well as for the second half of the school year. PTO Minutes can also be found on-line at the school webpage.
- ◆ **“Just Letting You Know”** – Karen provided more information on items that appeared in her report which was mailed to the Committee last week.
** Marketing Group was able to meet on November 12th, and they established goals for this year aimed at augmenting our enrollment.
** She also said the Adult Social proved to be well-attended, entertaining, and financially successful. Early numbers showed about \$12,700 in net income with \$9100 ear-marked to the Gym project and \$3,600 going to the Goeddeke Fund. (NOTE: See the Nov. 16 School Bulletin for complete information.)
- **Members' Roundtable** – Discussion during Karen's report led directly into good discussions cited below in no particular order.
 - ♣ Colette provided information from Lansing Catholic High School (LCHS) concerning **vaping**, as it is becoming much more prevalent at area MS and HS levels. LCHS is now testing their students, via mouth swabs, for tobacco products. Mary Margaret will be attending a Dec. 6th conference on the topic in Charlotte.
 - ♣ Concern was expressed about how some students (and therefore their parents), are feeling pressure from the emphasis being placed on **NWEA test results**. Some examples were brought up by parents. It was recognized that different

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NWEA Cont.

approaches to test results are evident in different classrooms. Some teachers are using the data, as it is a research-based approach. Although we haven't concluded our review of the school-wide data yet, (and fall results often fall back a bit from spring levels due to 'summer loss'), that data still gives teachers a general placement tool. Lexile bands, for instance, indicate reading level and are obtainable from the test. (They lend themselves well for staff to assign reading groups...) Test results are still a work-in-progress pending staff review of the fall information.

♣ A question came up about the **Trip to D.C.** Concern was expressed about the perceived lack of communication and information about this year's trip. Karen did indicate a sizeable deposit had just been made to the promoter. Mary Margaret said she would be working with staffer Nicole to put the subject front-and-center right after the holidays, (which is the time the students will actually be studying the documents or memorials they will visit.)

♣ A question was raised about the possibility of being able to use **credit cards** for collections and/or donations at school, vis-à-vis, for parents who seldom carry cash anymore. More information will be provided.

♣ A question arose about what **LCCHS** does to interact with our Grade-8 students and the **academic-readiness levels** they will need before their high school freshman year. Mary Margaret provided information, both during and after the meeting, about the time-tested process she has directed for many years. It entails her filling out an entire form for each student based on input from **all** the teachers-not just those for Math and English – and then sending the forms to LCCHS. (Note she always mentors new staff members who are not familiar with this process.) The forms afford parents and their students valuable information that they can at least consider when enrolling at LCCHS. Mary Margaret also indicated she will provide information in the MS newsletter to inform parents and students of the interaction between IHM and LCCHS.

♣ Colette asked about a form generated by Chris last year that cited "**School Expenses Beyond Tuition**". It was meant to avoid surprises, especially for new families, that arise when funding is needed for a myriad of valid expenses. Bill will retrieve it from his (Oct. 2017) archives for the sake of review for this year. (See School Committee **October 2017 Minutes** for further information.)

♣ The topic of '**Virtue Sheets**' came up, and their impact on a child – both positive and negative – was discussed. Karen spoke to their value but also said she would like to see them become a positive plan-for-improvement rather than only a negative knee-jerk for current transgressions. Mary Margaret also spelled out the difficulty with the 'progressive nature' of the sheets. (e.g., when a student receives a sheet but then shows good progress with an action plan agreed-to for that initial event. The problem arises when that same student receives a second Virtue sheet for a completely unrelated occurrence. Careful management of such occurrences must occur to avoid a 'piling-on' syndrome.)

♣ Discussion occurred about the practice location, and the performance locations, of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School **children's choir**. The matter will be reviewed, and performances could even venture out to other events at other parishes with students attending Immaculate Heart of Mary school.

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♣ A lengthy discussion, as requested by Rick, took place that centered around – but not limited to - the subjects of **“bullying, suicide, tattling, and the need for Unity-and-support for one another.**

“Tattling” was specifically cited as being a teaching point for children: Calling attention of something to the Staff is not a bad thing when it involves the SAFETY of everyone involved. (***“If you see something, say something!”***) Later Mary Margaret also suggested that perhaps we could revisit the techniques we explored last year i.e., asking students to loudly say, **“STOP!!”**, and then making it clear they were *“going to tell someone.”*

In closing Karen indicated she and the staff would look into the entire matter and work towards more attention towards the topic (both in the classrooms and also at possible parent session(s) outside of school hours.

She also needed the Committee to know that sometimes it seems like nothing is being done in this arena, but she said the staff is (already) working hard. This includes them actually checking in with individual kiddos daily about their welfare and their at-school comfort level.

- **Announcements** – Matt reminded everyone there is **NO** School Committee meeting in December and wished everyone an early Seasons Greetings!
- **Petitions and Closing Prayer** - Our group joined in the Hail Mary for Michelle Corey; for Nancy Murphy and for Nancy’s mom; for Nancy Fink’s mom; for Tom Sharkey and Mr. VanAlstine (Leland VanAlstine’s grandfathers); for Danielle’s dad; for peace and tranquility for our School Family and the Teaching Team; and for all other special intentions.

ADJOURNMENT – Matt adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

<u>Next Meeting:</u>	Date:	January 9, 2019
	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)–

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

Submitted and Edited by Bill Drake, Secretary to the School Committee and Mary Margaret Utess, Administrative Assistant

“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.”