

St. Patrick Education Commission
Minutes of March 6, 2007 meeting
Erin Isle Room, Parish Center

1. Present: Nathan McCormick, Lou Shalda, Cindy Samson, Dave Charron, Kim Herrington, Wendy Hefferan, Sean Donovan, Brian McCoy, John Eardley
2. Opening Prayer: Cindy Samson
3. February Minutes and Agenda were approved
4. There were no comments from the floor or communications from outside parishioners
5. Reports:
 - a. Mr. Donovan reported that registration pamphlets had been mailed. The tuition issue was discussed, as was the relationship between the budget, the education commission, the finance council, the office staff and Fr. Rock. Parish subsidization, step increases, and comparisons to other parishes were discussed. Scholarship applications would be mailed soon to help defray tuition costs. Discussed registrations, budgeted number of students, preschool, and alternatives.

Iowa testing results were positive, and would be used for improvements.

Drug and Firearm policy: There is no specific policy in the Diocese. Mr. Donovan will work on language to utilize at St. Patrick that will advise those in all levels of sports and education that drugs and firearms cannot be tolerated on school grounds, and that there will be penalties for violations.
 - b. Parish Office issues included which members were done with their 3 year terms and who would be returning? Dave, Nathan, John and Lou have completed their terms. Brian, Kim and Cindy plan to remain on the commission. We all need to propose replacements to Fr. Rock.
 - c. Marketing: The Rockford Advance has published St. Patrick School information. The Marketing group meets and discusses various guidelines and initiatives. They are looking for a chairperson to coordinate the efforts. Meetings are every other month. So far, only school families are participating. There have been no suggestions for non-school family direct contacts-for-participation, however.

The Lowell Expo would occur in March. Wendy sent in the fees for that event.

- d. PTO/Boosters: Movie night was a success, with good attendance. The PTO approved an \$800.00 payment for blinds for the school windows. Sales of various items were in excess of goals. Membership meetings on April 7 and May 7 would include membership and budget issues. New members and officers are needed. (PTO needs a VP and Boosters need a President, Secretary and VP). Encouraging teacher development requests is also a goal.

The playground money is available. Questions were raised about volunteer labor versus hiring contractors, warranties, and liability.

- e. The Boosters were discussing school cheerleader uniforms. Allocations were being made to defray maintenance and use costs for the building, runners, etc.
- f. Technology: Information on phone upgrades is being obtained. Questions regarding accreditation were raised and discussed. Grant money may assist with this expense.

Finance Council/Administration/Education Commission Meeting

In March a joint meeting was held by the members of the aforementioned groups to discuss the budget process, tuition, and improvements in communication among the groups. A consensus was reached that (1) better communication is needed and that it has been lacking in the past, leading to misunderstandings; (2) the Education Commission is to work with the Principal to suggest the school budget, which the Finance Council will then review as they are responsible for the overall parish budget. Fr. Rock, per Canon Law, makes the final decisions based upon Finance Council recommendations, the guidelines he receives from the Diocese, and his best judgment of the overall ministries and needs of the Parish; and (3) tuition needs to rise for various reasons. John Eardley offered to draft a letter to be sent to school families to answer questions that have been asked about rising tuition and about parish finances related to tuition.

NEXT EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING: APRIL 17, 2007