

**MINUTES OF THE  
ST. PATRICK EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
November 8, 2005**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m. by President Nathan Mc Cormick

**Members Present:** Sean Donovan, Father Badgerow, Nathan Mc Cormick, Kim Herrington, Julie Mooney, Mike Johnson, John Eardley, Dave Charron, Lou Shalda

**Members Absent:** Jill Blattner, John Brooks

2. **Opening Prayer:** Kim Herrington

3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve by Dave Charron, seconded by Kim Herrington, all in favor.

4. **Approval of the Minutes:** Motion to approve by Dave Charron, seconded by Julie Mooney, all in favor.

5. **Comments From The Floor:** None.

6. **Communications:** None.

7. **Reports:**

**A. Pastor:** None.

**B. Principal:** a). Visioning Statement Updates-Preliminary summarization and sifting was done by Sean and members of the Education Commission for initial pass. Sean summarized in a written form by patterns of commonality. Sean will present this data at the next "Revisioning Meeting" to be held from 7:00-8:30 on Thursday, November 17, 2005. Sean will put a reminder about the Vision meeting for November 17, 2005 in The Shamrock. The outline Sean has planned is for an Opening Prayer, welcoming the people, and taking about 45 minutes to summarize the process on how we prayed, sifted, and summarized the patterns of commonality for the vision statement. Sean will then ask for open discussion (45 minutes). Sean would like to keep the meeting to the hour and a half, if possible. In mid-December, Sean will update the final summaries in The Shamrock. Sean also handed out "Town Hall Meeting Data" to Board members--a summary showing clusters and how Sean summarized by weighted categories. Sean also explained the "Emerging Patterns" and "Draft".  
Sean – If we see more that needs to be addressed, please let Sean know.

Nathan –More and more organizations look at "Diversity" to pull people in. Maybe use a different word though.  
Kim – Agree, but don't use word "diversity" (impression one-sided).

Sean—Welcoming of diverse gifts – Unity & Diversity.

Nathan—Diversity conjures up too many negative feelings and personal biases.

John—"We welcome and cherish our differences" might be a good catch phrase to use.

b). Sean advised the Spanish program going very well.

c). All is going well with the teacher's. The PTO is having a PTO assembly next week and one in December.

d). Christmas Program K-5, on December 13, 2005 at Lowell Arts Center. It will be a 2-hour program. The Middle School will do a Passion Play at Easter.

**C. Business Manager:** No new news.

**D. Marketing Committee:** Lou advised he and Nathan updated the Internship information. Lou called Frank Novakowski/Davenport after e-mailing to follow up. Lou is waiting for a call back from Frank and will advise.

Sean – Initial site quote for website ~\$1,900.00 (Doug Kelly). Within next 1-2 weeks, Mike and Sean will get back the details and review and advise options.

Mike – Should we have the Intern look at/review the web site? Nathan/Lou-Yes, that is a good idea.

Sean – Billboard Ads can have a positive impact to marketing our school according to a meeting Sean attended for Principals (Held in Traverse City-Principal's meeting last month).

**E. Pre-School Committee:** Nathan met with Marcia Frieburger (Asst Principal at Holy Spirit). Nathan went through "Do's & Don'ts". Marcia advised Nathan it is okay to take what they have in place for St. Patrick to use. Nathan toured their pre-school. Some modification (tables/toilets) will need to be made at St. Patrick. Nathan received the package from The State of Michigan for all documents to fill out (Nathan). The application

must be filled out before State Inspection. Inspection is only for permission to proceed. Nathan has also requested Fire Inspection and Health Inspection papers.

From Nathan's meeting with Marcia/Holy Spirit, Marcia advised that without the Preschool, she is confident enrollment would be down. Also, Marcia advised Nathan they have a successful "Latchkey Program" for older kids (Before and After school care). By our December Board meeting, we should be able to see things rolling. Father noted that he knows the people who own Byrne Electric (they also run Wee-Folks) and maybe we should check with them? Kim knows the people as well and will check with them about Pre-School. Nathan also advised that Marcia/Holy Spirit said the key to successful Preschool is Director and Teacher/Aide being "Grandmother/young loving/caring type and Teacher."

**F. Other:** Kim – Gala now done! A Technology meeting will be held soon. They will report from the Technology group after their meeting.

## **8. Old Business**

### **Follow-Up to Visioning Meeting, 11/17/05**

## **9. New Business**

**A. Sitty's Wish-** Arabic for "Grandmother's Wish". Katherine Kampfschulte started and manages Sitty's Wish". Needs Gently used clothing. The first year she started she gathered 20-25 coats. Last year was +1000 coats. Grand Rapids Public Schools lets her store all clothing in a building they have that Nathan helped set up originally. Sean had an assembly 2 weeks ago at school to prompt kids/families to give "gently used" clothes, only if people want to. Nathan advised that two years in a row St. Patrick's have lead in donations. Sean will have a box outside office in school. If there are questions/concerns, feel free to call Sean/Nathan. Katherine will accept cash donations for specific needs as well.

**B. Education Committee Relevance, Restructuring & Function:** Advisor Board will work on more after Revisioning is done.

Sean—Look at short-term task committee/focus group for some of the following areas: Look at other schools to see what they do right; A need to look at forming a group to "heal" past wounds... "Unity in Christ"; A need more communication in the church bulletin to keep Parish involved/informed. Look at using peoples' resources in Parish (Grandparent/Older) for reading buddies or assistants-may need to properly advertise to get these people/helpers coordinated. A need to be more Inter-generational within our Parish and school.

John E.—Parishioners e-mail? Mike—Adding now, but only 20%.

Dave—Maybe we need to make a list of ten things to preserve or increase enrollment.

Sean—For next year, 24 seats for Kindergarten target to be filled! – Marketing and working together! "Early Five-year olds" and Pre-school needs to be keep moving forward.

**10. Future Agenda Items.** Nathan will draft updates from this meeting for December's agenda.

**11. Commission Member's Comments.** None.

## **12. President's Comments**

Nathan noted the Bishop's comments in The G.R. Press that closing schools will happen. St. Patrick School is taking steps, but long steps. We need to re-energize and re-commit to increase enrollment. Get parents through front door! Get parents to call—How do we bait them (Marge & Sally are our best "sales people" – we need to guide and give them the tools.

Kim—One idea from other school "Parent Partners". Parents at St. Patrick's agree to partner with new families for the whole year. Help them along the first year. Introduce them to sports/special occasions/etc.

Nathan—December's meeting we need to spend ~30 minutes to brain storm marketing. Mirror what has been said in Regional. Council Meetings. Pre-school will have to happen quickly (as does Marketing).

Added comments from Sean—Maybe we offer rebate incentive for referrals or look at other such incentives.

## **13. Closing Prayer**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2005 (7:00 pm, Erin Isle Room)**

**Respectfully Yours,**

**Lou Shalda  
Vice-President**