

## ST. MARY'S EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Called to order by Sara Nosbush in the St. Mary's Parish Meeting Room at 5:32 p.m. on Tues., June 11, 2024
1. Prayer ~ Fr. Mark Steffl led prayer
  2. Roll call ~ Present: Sara Nosbush, Jenny Miller, Nikki Fischer, Emily Krzmarzick, George Schwint, Jamie Pietig, Fr. Mark Steffl, Peter Roufs Guest: Fr. Tanner  
Absent: Dan Braulick, Samuel Rosemeier, Matt Grausam
  3. May minutes were approved
  4. June agenda was approved
- B. ENRICHMENT ~ Sara & Nikki brought rice krispie bars and brownies.
- C. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
1. Staff updates... Karri Hoffmann (previous 2nd grade teacher) has agreed to take the 4th Grade position; Leah Weiss has accepted the position for 2nd Grade, and Abeni Docter has accepted the English position in the High School; Matt Wagner has accepted the JH Football Coach position that became available; The paraprofessional position (TBD), and High School Concert Choir position is yet to be filled;
  2. 1st reading of policies... was emailed out (George Schwint & Peter Roufs had gone over it previously, and made proposed changes) and gone over at the meeting, noting a few changes that will be added along with Matt Grausam's 3210.2 Tuition policy rewrite and sent out to the committee to review before the 2nd reading and final approval mid-July.  
Staff approached by a disruptive student policy-TBD.
  3. School policy changes - shaving, late work, phones, absences and non-dress code days...  
**Shaving**-with the exception of a mustache, boys needing to be clean shaven has been the policy over the years. After a student presented his proposal, SMS Faculty approved that there would be no shaving fines moving forward. Jamie Pietig proposed... a trial year for 2024-25 (TBD);  
**Late work policy**-was different for each teacher. Peter Roufs wanted to have it uniform, grades 6-12, so all would know and be able to hold to the policy better. Proposal... is to have 50% after 1 day late in the high school. Middle School would take a gradual approach... 6th-90%, 7th-80%, 8th-70% credit if work comes in late. (Middle School also stays in during recess to complete late work.) Students would be able to ask for extensions if necessary (prior notice would be recommended);  
**Phones**-Middle School-ok between classes & at breakfast; High School-not at lunch or in class. Proposal... is to have a "phone spot" in each classroom, during class time, to alleviate the monitoring of phone use;  
**Absences**-(not truancy, where you do not know where the students are) is becoming an issue for some students. Absenteeism rule has been that after 9 days, students could lose 5% off their grade/Semester (teacher discretion). Proposal... 10 absences a semester (includes vacations, helping at home, sick-no doctor note, other appts. not specified), PER CLASS. Deductions start on day 11... 1%, 12... 2%, 13... 3%, etc. and are taken off semester grades-coded on FACTS as AE-Absent Excused. (Exceptions are doctor-medical/chiro, ortho appts. which are still excused but not counted in the 10 days allowed before deduction-coded on FACTS as AME-Absent Medical Excused). Also noted that non-dress code days would be trimmed down, from this past year, and there is a plan to have 4-5 minutes between classes that will be placed three times throughout the day to address the time available to use the restroom for students, so they are not asking to leave class.  
A vote took place, and all **bold** items were approved. Motion carried.
  4. Classroom enrollment... Kindergarten number is at 24, (policy reads that it goes to two sections at 25). Mrs. Schumacher/Preschool teacher would possibly be available to help in the afternoon, as the PK 3 & 4 would meet in the AM depending on student numbers.  
Just an FYI. No vote needed at this time.
  5. Membership... Nikki Fischer will complete her term on the E & C, as of July 2024, so we will be looking for another committee member to fill her spot.
  6. Letter to Springfield/Lamberton parishes... Fr. Steffl spoke on the letters he sent out. The feedback that was received so far is positive, but he is waiting to hear back formally, on how the proposed schools would serve as a starting point and then proceed to St. Mary's School for middle-high school.
  7. Rental Fees... Personal Mileage goes from 65.5 cents to 67 cents. Motion carried.

#### D. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. School~Peter reported that the school year ended well, with an awards ceremony for the underclassmen; 10 students and parents from St. Mary's will be visiting Washington DC from June 28th-July 1st; MSHSL video was emailed to the committee for them to watch & approve; The 2025 senior class trip is a go to the Florida Keys with the first of two \$500.00 deposits made; A few new families are transferring to St. Mary's School for the upcoming 2024-25 school year; Peter is working on the annual MNSAA report for the year. A self-study will take place in 2024-25, followed by a team visit in 2025-26; Ben Tierney Education Consulting was hired to do an audit of our Language Arts curriculum, and will present recommendations to us; The company Bluum, sponsored by CSCOE will be working with us regarding our NWEA scores; The lunch program will be audited by MDE this year, as it was postponed from 2023-24; Sleepy Eye Community Theater is renting the auditorium for their summer production of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, that will take place June 27-30th; High schoolers are active this summer with the Strength & Agility Training Program, with nearly 50 participating; The custodial staff is busy getting the school ready for fall, and we hope to complete a number of projects this summer.
2. Religious Education~ Samuel's report included Youth Ministry items. Totus Tuus will take place at St. Mary's School. The evening program will be June 16-20th, and the day program will be June 17-20th; The AFC server appreciation Valley Fair trip will take place June 24th.
3. Pastor/Superintendent~Fr. Steffl reported that Catechesis of the Good Shepherd went well and will take place for 2024-25; The Handmaids will be picking up Fr. Steffl and Fr. Tanner's classes (Sr. Cora-8th, Sr. Agnes-10th) for 2024-25.
4. Financial~no report
5. Other items~a concern was brought to the committee about a handout for 4th grade girls. A parent questioned if and how the definition of gender identity was presented to the 4th grade girls during a presentation;  
Threat to school...school went 2 hours late May 16th. The threat was found to not be credible within a half hour of hearing back from the authorities. Committee member brought it up for discussion;  
July meeting...2nd policy reading would go out, and no meeting as of right now.

#### E. FUTURE AGENDA

1. MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m.  
St. Mary's Church Parish Meeting Room
2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Policy approval via email (July 2024)

F. PRAYER~ Peter Roufs led prayer.

G. ADJOURNMENT~ 6:59 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marti Schroeffer