

SETON EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2015
At SETON CATHOLIC

Present: Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Fr. William Reamer, Fr. Timothy Canaan, Fr. Scott Seymour, Christopher Hay, Brian Snell, Michael Howley, Stacie Chapman, Stephen Gagnier, Patrick McGill, Martha Frost, Sr. Helen Hermann, Cathy Russell, Sally Yanulavich,

Excused: John Deon; Lynn Gilbert

President Chris Hay called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Fr. Timothy Canaan led opening Prayer

Agenda: Motion to accept – Patrick McGill; second by Stacie Chapman – approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes – Martha Frost; second by Stacie Chapman – approved.

Public Comment: None

Student Council Report: None this month.

Principal's Reports:

Sister Helen – Seton Academy

Sister submitted a written report for all Council members. She handed out the Catholic Identity Survey from Seton Academy Faculty and explained it. The students also did a survey, as did the parents, but theirs went to the Diocese. The 5th Graders did a project on Canada incorporating many different skills and wrote papers on this subject.

Cathy Russell – Seton Catholic

Cathy also submitted a written report for all Council members. She discussed the included Summary of Department meetings. The school has a new scanner from the BOCES Library Service. This will enable automation of the library.

Committee Reports:

Academic

See the Principals Reports. No report from the Committee.

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Gagnier reported that the (Strategic Planning) Committee would meet in about week. There is work on individual room controls at Seton Catholic. He will have 3 other price bids for the boilers. There was a sewer backup in the locker room at Seton Catholic.

Catholic Identity

Fr. Timothy indicated all was going well.

Development

Lynn Gilbert has been hired as Director of Development. She sent a lengthy report to President Chris Hay along with an e-mail, which he circulated to all Council members prior to this meeting. She was unable to attend the Council meeting. There was discussion regarding many of the topics addressed in her report.

Social Media – This would be used for marketing and recruitment. The use of student images on Facebook and the privacy issues this raises were discussed. It was noted that parents sign a consent form for use of images of their student for various reasons, but it was not clear if Facebook and/or other forms of social media were included in that form. The picture connects them with a place and it was noted that most parishes have a Facebook page. Fr. Scott wondered if the Diocese had a policy for this – we should obtain this policy if there is one. It was also discussed that the Partners in Mission approach was that a separate form had to be signed by parents to have their child NOT appear in promotional materials.

Her report proposes to split the advancement and enrollment portions of the Strategic Planning committee into separate groups –they are in one now. The Leadership Team will discuss this.

Team Building – Lynn offered her services for this concept and her report contained many ideas.

Enrollment- Her report made suggestions regarding increasing enrollment. The major suggestion was moving the 6th Grade from Seton Academy to Seton Catholic and having two sixth grades (enrollment dependent). She suggests two 4-year-old Pre-K rooms and a feeder 3-year-old room at Seton Academy. These would provide a feeder system for the

elementary grades and may help with retention. It was noted in the discussion on these issues that the Diocese requires that Pre-K be self-sustaining. There was much discussion on these issues, the pros and cons of such a move (6th Grade). Msgr. Duprey thought the suggestion was a logical one in thought process. Stacie offered that this would be the time to do this since we are in the process this year of strategic planning for the future of Seton Schools. Regarding any safety concern about 6th graders in a building with 12th graders, Cathy Russell reported that currently there is not much daily interaction with the 7th and 8th graders and the high school students and the lunch interaction has not been a problem.

Many different Council members expressed divergent points of view on this issue. Chris Hay pointed out we do not market enough, citing our student's test scores as one point. Some of the discussion focused on the one entity concept (e.g. we now have one Education Council) and other on getting more local or "domestic" students enrolled.

A motion was made by Patrick McGill and seconded by Brian Snell to 1) plan to have the 6th grade at Seton Catholic campus next year and 2) to expand other programs (Pre-K) for next year. It was noted that this would be based on space limitations. Passed unanimously.

Finance

Seton Catholic – Sally Yanulavich provided a report regarding expenses and receipts to date. Brian Snell reported that there will be a meeting of the two finance committees next week and they will be working with the two financial officers (Sally and John) regarding preparation of identical reports for the Council. They will also discuss implementation of the three year plan adopted a year ago meeting (see below). Sally indicated that Seton Catholic finances are better at this point.

Seton Academy – John Deon provided several written reports. and was present for any questions.

Fundraising:

A Director for this committee is still needed

Student Life

Stacie reported that there would be two meetings of the Strategic Planning group addressing these issues in March. No report otherwise

Membership:

A new member is still needed. Suggestions were given to the

committee chair. Lynn Gilbert also has an idea for a Council member.

There was no other business conducted and no Executive Session was requested by anyone.

Adjournment

Motion by Stacie Chapman. Second by Patrick McGill. Approved.
Closing prayer led by Fr. Scott.

**Next Meeting at SETON ACADEMY on TUESDAY, March 24,
2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

Michael J. Howley
Council Secretary