

Education Council

1/29/18 6pm at K-3 Conference Room

Attendees: Attached is Sign-In Sheet

Meeting opened with prayer by Father Pat Reynolds at 6:01pm

Meeting Notes:

- I. Karen introduced Father Bradley as Interim Director and Doris Waldeck as Assistant Interim Director
 - a. Father Bradley said that he has worked all month to put out fires/rumors regards OCS. He got ahold of Ebelhar Accounting Firm and met with them last week; they have stated no miss use of funds have been identified. Committee has to be supports of OCS and send them to the folks with concerns to someone who can answer their questions. Do everything you can to spread the good news of the Catholic Schools. Preach Good News of Catholic Education. Balance sheet will be ready for next Stewardship Meeting. Father Bradley states that OCS will be okay.
 - b. Doris discussed possibly taking our training from the summer and revisit training, so we can recall our duty of being council members. Council is ambassador for OCS and if we can't answer the question we need to send folks to the next level in chain of command to get answer.
 - c. Discussion was had if parishes promoted OCS during previous weekend masses. Father Bradley stated that every pastor wants their kids in catholic schools.
- II. Approval of Minutes– Minutes were approved with motion from John Mitchell and 2nd from Juli Stewart
- III. Pillar Committee Updates-
 - a. Academics –nothing new to report
 - b. Catholicity & Discipleship-discussion regarding the OCS Lenten Wide Project and the NS Food Drive; a decision has not been made at this point on how these will work. Faculty retreat was a great experience and would like to continue. Father Pat stated it may be a good idea to have a table at the back of each parish to promote Catholic Schools and have a representative there to answer families' questions. Then there was some discussion regarding the new tax credit.
 - c. Extracurricular Activities & Athletics- Nothing new to report – waiting for winter sports to end to get an update on how the season went. Gym time hasn't been a huge issue the last few years.
 - d. Stewardship – Father Bradley let the committee know that he saw getting the financials done by next meeting was biggest hurdle, but assured committee that they would have a financial statement to review. He also let the committee know that the recommendation of the 5% tuition increase had been changed to 3% increase by members of OCS Administration. Doris updated committee on her efforts to streamline and improve security and efficiency in the Scrip program. Registration for next year would be March 5th-18th; and first rounds of Tuition Assistance would be Feb 5th-16th to allow families to know what they were awarded prior to registering.

- IV. Financial Update- Father Bradley apologized to committee for not having financial statements up to this point. We will have at next meeting. Ann Kauffeld is working on getting our books in order.
- a. Tuition increase has been 3% the last few years, wanted to let parents see stability. Trying hard to increase enrollment so administration felt 3% was the best option.
 - b. Father Bradley met with Ann Kauffeld today and she had some suggestions; one being too many accounts/cost centers – need to consolidate and report differently.
 - c. Gates reported that from the Parent Forum suggestion of transparency with finances. High School finances are where they need to be and under review by the Diocese. And information will go back out to the parents. Books not being up to date is not the high school and books are balanced every month. High school sends information down to central office.
 - d. When Ann is done with K-8 review and the High School review is completed Father Bradley, Doris and Ann will come together to make decision about going forward.
 - e. Reiteration that there is no miss management of OCS Funds!
- V. Registration Update- Doris is working on understanding FACTS since it is first to go-live. Registration opens March 5th-18th and Tuition Assistance starts Feb 5th-16th. There was some discussion on the 529 Plans and the possibly sending the new information regarding the changes and maybe have a CPA to answer questions for our families. Father Bradley suggested to maybe having a special called meeting to go over the 529 Plans.
- VI. Scrip Update – Doris reported that Lisa does inventory on Wednesday (for sales Monday & Tuesday); Doris will be doing inventory on Saturday (for sales Thursday-Friday). Keeping track of traffic coming in & out to see if hours of operation need to be tweaked. Possibly looking at a 5-7pm time for working families which might get more volunteers if evening hours were offered. Doris has seen no misuse of cards only human error which she can track back. There was some discussion regarding the \$175 Scrip being billed upfront this year.
- VII. Dinner Auction – Natalie presented the 12th Annual Dinner Auction will be March 17th at 6pm at Brescia. Subscribe to in the loop to stay on top of OCS news and the dinner auction. Similar to years past there will be a silent auction, live auction, and buffet dinner. There are discounted tickets for Religious/Faculty/Staff; you can make a donation to the auction. This year there will be a Cash Raffle \$40/ticket with only 400 tickets sold. This is the biggest and only fundraiser for the ENTIRE SYSTEM (K-12). Natalie would like the council and staff to greet families as they arrive at the dinner. Currently working on marketing video for OCS. Some discussion regarding the limited parking and how it will be handled the night of the event. Suggestion to have valet parking and possible charge for that could be an option.
- VIII. Open Discussion-
- a. Question regarding what happened recently at Marshall County are our school prepared for a situation such as that. High school has had active shooter training a few years back, they review safety plans often, and have lock down drills. Short of putting metal detectors at the doors, staff /students are trained when new procedures are recommended by safety experts. Teachers who notice a change in a child’s behavior can recommend the student to see counselors. Schools are doing the best that they can and continually trying to be up to date with the new procedures that the experts now say. For example now if there is an active shooter you should try to distract them, throw things at them. Discussion if OCS could have someone trained and armed at the schools. Discussion that our kids start and end each and every day with prayer and most students have a good relationship with an adult within their

school and feel safe enough to go talk to. The schools will not put their guard down about the safety of our students and faculty and stay on top of any new safety procedures.

- b. Carl noted that there had been a lot of frustrations of some of the council members with not having financials and feels beat down. We LOVE our schools; we have 4 GREAT principals/faculty; and have great things going on. The council appreciates Father Bradley and Doris stepping in the Interim Director position. From the outside looking in there is a lot of friction between the Central Office and the High School. We want to support the ENTIRE SYSTEM not just K-8. Does Administration want the system to be together or separate? The Council is asked to support K-12, when our system doesn't operate that way. This needs to be fixed right away. Until we get our financials we can't tell people we are okay, its black and white. Leave the system as it is today or combine it; a decision needs to be made either way. We have to get our act together with what is going on in our own home, OCS. What will happen when we hire a new director? There is a real fear that it will go back to the way it was, we need the right person keeping up to date and moving OCS forward. Carl would love to put a fire in everyone else, but we are in current internal disarray. Carl noted that he appreciated people who have been in the schools for years and years, but there is a need to pay attention to current children and to detail. Little things happen, but we need to sharpen our pencil and get back on track. There are broken committee people on this committee right now. Those of us that don't know the ins/outs and don't want to know. But family has to play together and if we don't how can we go out and promote when we are broken. Things appear to be looked over. We have a great system and Carl will continue to fight for it. But there are some that feel we have fallen in a trap and we have to do something to bring ourselves back up.
- c. Karen stated that whoever director is needs to have administration support and that Gerald did not which is why he isn't here today.
- d. Father Bradley stated he wasn't convinced a Director Role is needed. "What we need more is a head of Finance?" Father is looking into the org. chart
- e. Tiffany stated that not having someone over the 4 schools would most likely create silos where there school are working independently and that makes us go back a few steps as the schools are working together and making strides to improve our system.
- f. Doris stated that we need to look at director job description and review it to make it accurate prior to hiring anyone.
- g. Father Bradley stated that hopefully by May the job description can be redone and the council can help make the decision on updating. Council needs to work together and stay supportive of Catholic Schools.

Next meeting will be 2/26/18 at 6pm K-3 Conference Room

Meeting was closed with prayer by Father Pat Reynolds at 7:44pm

Education Council Meeting 1/29/18

Tiffany Powers
Karen Baird

Keith Johnson
Natalie Hyler

Amy Silbert

Nancy Smith

Doris Wuldeck

JOHN MITCHELL

John Jones

Carl Lewis

Julie Stewart

David Dean

Steph Settles

Steph Settles

David Kunkle

Burt Booker