



Mother of Good Counsel School

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School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 (Science Room)

In Attendance: Fr. Reed, Michelle Hagen, Tony Dompke, Dan Scholz, Erica Byfield, Kristine Wolf, Anthony Makovec, Rolanda Makovec, Luke Feudner

Meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Reed

Review of October Meeting Minutes: Minutes were unavailable. Michelle to see if they are saved and will circulate via email.

Pastor's Report:

- Efforts are being made to bring more people into the church.
- Work is being done to support the school and bridge the church and school. An example of coming together as one community is the Sunday, Dec 8th celebration of MGC's 99th anniversary with Masses in the morning and a school concert at 3pm.
- There will be a committee to plan MGC's 100th anniversary next year, which will include a bilingual Mass.
- There will be a pilgrimage to Italy in October 2025 for those interested.

Principal's Report:

- Enrollment is down 6 students from the budgeted 175 and may be down a 7th shortly, which represents a shortfall of approximately \$35,000 for the second semester. (Each student brings in approximately \$10,000 for a full school year). There will need to be decisions on how to make up the difference with an already small staff and limited resources. The cafeteria is paying attention to the cost per meal and making adjustments (e.g. canned fruit instead of prepackaged cups), but savings will go to make up a beginning of the year deficit.
- MGC's first-grade teacher resigned. A retired teacher is in the classroom now, and a search will be conducted for a full-time replacement. Discussion was on what challenges and student behaviors have been in the first-grade classroom along with clarification on the support being provided. Principal Michelle recently met with staff to provide an opportunity for open dialogue. There is an interest in rebuilding a sense of community within MGC and its teachers.
- A replacement has been found for MGC's administrative assistant who is leaving by Thanksgiving.

ECP: The Extended Care Program has a new entry system with microphone and camera.

Athletics: Basketball season is starting with five teams, and there will be cheerleading this year.

Improvements:

- A grant of \$10,000 has been secured for a new MGC sign. MGC will need to pay the difference between the grant and the cost of the sign (approximately \$7,000). A local company came in with a lower bid and better service. There will be a pep rally and other efforts to raise money at the Catholic Schools Walk for the sign.
- Bruce Varick from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee came back to conduct a safety assessment where it was learned MGC could apply for a FEMA grant of \$150,000 for each of 3 buildings that could be used for items like outside doors, classroom doors, and a phone system. MGC will need to pay net \$45,000 in 3 installments if it secures the \$450,000 grant.

Recruitment Walk: Postponed due to the Choice window being in December rather than November. The Knights of Columbus said they'd help.

Other New Business:

- There's interest in updating MGC's organizational flow chart to have the Athletic Director report to the school instead of the parish and continuing to allow parishioners to participate on the teams. The Pastoral Council and MGC teachers were consulted. Meeting discussion was that the current structure was intentional, and getting the current process working as intended is key. It was agreed the bylaws should be reviewed before a decision is made.
- The student uniform policy is being applied inconsistently, and it was suggested it be updated to allow greater discretion. Discussion was that it didn't need to be significantly changed because parents should be aware of it and have options. The suggestion was for Principal Michelle to propose adjustments and then review with staff for consistent application among students.
- Mandatory conferences recently played a part in several students leaving MGC due to confusing language about "students not being able to return" if a conference was missed. It was agreed mandatory conferences are an important part of MGC but that the language be updated to be "referred to the principal" so accommodations can be made (e.g. rescheduling the conference) in appropriate circumstances.
- The December School Advisory Committee meeting is being rescheduled to Monday, December 2nd at 6pm. There is a desire to keep meetings to 90 minutes.

Meeting closed with praying the Our Father.