



# Mother of Good Counsel School

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## School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (Parish Living Room)

In Attendance: Fr. Reed, Michelle Hagen, Tony Dompke, Dan Scholz, Erica Byfield, Luke Feudner

Meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Reed

Review of December Meeting Minutes: Minutes were approved as submitted.

### Pastor's Report:

- The installation of the new Archbishop was beautiful. He came across as humble and has started his own weekly newsletter titled "Branches". He'll be doing MGC's confirmation.

### Principal's Report:

- **Enrollment** - Enrollment is currently at 176. It could drop to 175, but it's up from 168 and aligned with the budgeted number of 175, which means the finances are in good standing for the spring semester. Some of the increase came from students that left and came back.
- **Staff Change** - The part-time music teacher resigned for personal reasons. She will be replaced by the person who played music for the Christmas/Birthday celebration. The new teacher has a background in music, and it's expected to be a positive transition.
- **Building Updates** - There are building updates underway. The room next to and connected with the science lab will now be the science room for convenience, and the chapel will be moved across the hall so it's a left turn at the top of the stairs and in a prominent location. There will be work on the chapel with help from Adolpho, Fr. Art, and a possible Eagle Scout project. Also, the Knights of Columbus committed to paint the common areas of the school. A color scheme will be determined based on the psychology of what's recommended for a school with the intent of keeping it bright since some of the areas are dark.
- **Christmas/Birthday Program** - The Christmas/Birthday program was deemed a success. It was very well attended/the church was full, the kids stepped up, there was food and cake, much of the staff was surprisingly pleased, and the kids loved it. The nativity play on Friday also went well, and Fr. Reed blessed all the classrooms for the epiphany.
- **Budget** - Work on the 2025-2026 budget will begin shortly with targeted completion at the end of February or Early March. The Catholic Schools Walk did a good job raising money but came up a little short. The better sign was still selected, has been permitted, is in production, and is estimated to be done in 4 weeks (weather dependent). The FEMA grant would be awarded next year so \$45,000 needs to be earmarked for MGC's contribution. The grant would go toward items like doors (inside and out), windows, telephone system, playground gate, etc. If there's room in the budget, the Social Studies books/curriculum needs updating.
- **School Calendar** - The school calendar is being reviewed and updated. While 1,137 hours of instruction are still needed, the required days of school decreased from 177 to 172. (But practically speaking, there will need to be 173 days of school not including snow days). Teachers will continue to have 190 days of work. The fewer days required may allow for starting later to

avoid some of the hot temperatures in late August. Breakfast may need to be moved to before school hours. (Students are guaranteed to eat for free next year). There's a desire to get Mass back to 8:15am on Thursday if possible.

- **ECP** - No report, but as part of e-rate (which decreases internet expense from \$750 to \$60/month), there's eligibility for \$44,000 of equipment, which could be used for good internet/finger print system allowing automated billing calculations, ease of payment, and ensuring proper authorization. (Online payment option went away in July).
- **Athletics** - Basketball season is going well with good attendance and behaviors. Remaining games are home games. The program is working through some adjustments. The gym needs to be available for ECP until 6pm so basketball is changing its practice times. There aren't supposed to be any athletic activities for grade schoolers during break (Archdiocese rule). Need to collect fees to ensure athletics doesn't run a deficit. Discussed what it takes to run concessions and what that could look like.
- **Website** - The website refresh is underway thanks to Tony Dompke. He'll continue to work on it as time permits.

#### Other New Business:

- **School Safety** - The DOJ requires schools to submit data and documentation regarding school safety grants. MGC hasn't submitted since 2019 and is going to be audited. There haven't been regular fire drills, and the approach for measuring how long it takes needs to be reviewed. Michelle has assembled a school safety team. Adolpho submitted floor plans. Police conducted an assessment with practical advice, and a grant is available to have a digital mapping. The Archdiocese conducted active shooter training and then a drill. (Teachers did a great job explaining, drill went well aside from 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade behaviors, but parent feedback was that a letter ahead of time would have been better communication than kidmail). MGC has a safety plan template, but it lacks specificity. Reviewing and updating the safety plan will be an agenda topic for next meeting.

Closing prayer and dismissal by Fr. Reed.