

SETON EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2016
at
St. Peter’s Church – Emmaus Room

These minutes are from the Education Council meeting held in conjunction with the Education Council dinner retreat. Msgr. Dennis Duprey hosted the dinner at the Emmaus Room in St. Peter’s Church. Thanks to Monsignor for a delicious dinner.

Present: Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Fr. Timothy Canaan, Fr. William Reamer, Fr. Scott Seymour, Christopher Hay, Michael Howley, Stephen Gagnier, Patrick McGill, Cheryl Kabeli, Sr. Helen Hermann, Lynn Gilbert

Excused: Brian Snell, Stacie Chapman, and Martha Frost

President Christopher Hay called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. There was a recollection and prayer as part of the retreat.

Christopher Hay introduced our new Council member, Cheryl Kabeli. Everyone introduced himself or herself and welcomed her.

Agenda: There was no formal agenda

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes to review.

Principal’s Reports:

Lynn Gilbert – Seton Catholic

Lynn reported regarding activity at Seton Catholic. She reported morale was “off the charts” and everyone was very busy. Ally Rosenbaum (Guidance) left for a position at Saranac Central.

New Staff or Positions: Todd Everleth – International Student Director; Tom Pastore – Director of Guidance; Mora Spillman – High School Religion; Sue Pombrio – Middle School Religion and Faith Ambassador. There are two new ELA teachers, one for the middle school and one for the high school. Lynn has two interviews for Social Studies teachers.

An Executive Cabinet has been formed. Mary Forbes chairs this Cabinet. The other members are Susan Pellerin, Todd Everleth, Tom Pastore, Christine Boule and Andrew Bilow, the Dean of Students.

A Student Leadership Team has been appointed consisting of 6 Seniors and 2 Juniors.

The 2016-2017 Student Handbook will be handed out. It needs Council approval.

The goal of 25 international students has been met for this year. There are two students from Thailand and the rest from other countries. The Thai students have a different tuition.

Enrollment is 170 students (175 at this time last year). There are still some considering attending Seton Catholic. Student enrollment by grade: 6th – 26; 7th – 20; 8th – 20; 9th – 23; 10th – 25; 11th – 26; and 12th – 30. This year all students will be getting two lockers for their use.

September 6, 2016 will be a Diocesan staff development day in Lake Placid.

Sister Helen – Seton Academy

All teachers necessary to start the school year have been hired so Seton Academy is fully staffed. One of the new hires left after the second staff meeting but that position has been filled. Each new teacher is paired with a teacher already on staff. The new teachers are in the following grades: Kindergarten – 1; 1st grade – 1; 2nd grade – 1; 3rd grade – 2; and 4th grade – 1. An Art teacher has been hired on a part-time basis.

“Enrollment changes every day.” Enrollment is 187 students (201 at this time last year). Pre-K has seen a significant drop in enrollment. Student enrollment by grade: Pre-K – 24; Kindergarten – 32; 1st grade – 24; 2nd grade – 27; 3rd grade – 24; 4th grade 27; 5th grade – 27. _

Committee Reports:

There were no Committee reports. A discussion was held regarding the function and need for our various committees, which are contained in the By-Laws. Thoughts for discussion follow. The Development Committee needs review (Msgr. Duprey and Chris Hay motion and second). Is the Academic Committee needed? The frequency of committee meetings was discussed. The Council needs to engage stakeholders and make them more a part of this process. The following committees were put forth: Catholic Identity, Finance, Development, Fundraising, and Buildings and Grounds (Msgr Duprey and Fr. Timothy motion and second).

Unfinished Business – none at this meeting

New Business

Along the lines of stakeholder involvement Cheryl Cabelli spoke about having talked to many parents who would like to see more information in the Education Council meeting minutes. Those are available on the website. This would better inform our school communities, particularly parents, about what is occurring in and regarding our schools.

The idea was brought up about setting goals that can be published so our communities will know where the Council thinks the schools should be headed. There was discussion of a press release update after each meeting perhaps on a Newsfeed website and on the Education Council website.

It was discussed that better communication is needed with and within our school communities, especially regarding fundraising.

The idea of seeking out grants that may be available was discussed. Also discussed was reaching out to members of our school communities who may have some grant writing experience.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:30 p.m. Msgr. Duprey led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting - Seton Catholic on MONDAY September 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael J. Howley
Council Secretary