

**SETON EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES – September 22, 2015**  
**at**  
**SETON ACADEMY**

**Present:** Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Fr. William Reamer, Christopher Hay, Brian Snell, Michael Howley, Stacy Chapman, Stephen Gagnier, Patrick McGill, Sr. Helen Herman, Cathy Russell, Sally Yanulavich, John Deon, Lynn Gilbert

**Excused:** Fr. Timothy Canaan, Fr. Scott Seymour, and Martha Frost

Christopher Hay called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.  
Opening Prayer was lead by Fr. Reamer.

**Agenda:** Motion to accept – Brian Snell; second by Steve Gagnier – approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Amend to list Stacie Chapman as present. Motion to approve – Brian Snell McGill; second – Stacie Chapman; approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Student Council Report:** None

**International Student Report**

International Student Program Director Susan Pellerin presented issues to the Council. Cambridge International (one of the agencies we work with regarding recruiting international students) suggested we decrease our international student tuition (currently \$24,500 plus an agency fee of \$6,000.00) in order to diversify our international student body. Two students from Thailand received a discount (\$17,500) last year. There were different recommendations: 1) \$13,000.00 (\$7,000.00 for housing and \$6,000.00 tuition – there is an agency fee of \$6,000.00) for students from Vietnam and Mexico; 2) 19,000.00 (\$12,000.00 tuition and \$7,000.00 for housing plus same agency fee) for students from Korea and Brazil. There was discussion of \$15,000.00 (\$8,000.00 tuition with \$7,000.00 for housing plus same agency fee. Do we want more diversification? Patrick McGill pointed out we need a policy. Msgr. Duprey reminded us that we have a number in the budget and was concerned about the students fitting in with our faith. What is our priority - finances vs. diversity? The recommendation of the Council was to go with \$19,000.00 for the four countries discussed.

**Technology Report:**

Daniel Cayea provided the Council with a written report and indicated that he will be providing monthly technology updates. He made an excellent presentation. Objectives have been identified and each of the 4 paragraphs in his report addressed different issues. He noted that there are 7 students in the IT program. He is looking at One Note Classroom, which would make the classrooms paperless. He seeks to build the documents in the Strategic Plan. Daniel indicated that there are grants for technology out there but they are difficult to obtain.

## **Principal's Reports:**

### Sister Helen – Seton Academy

Sister submitted a written report for all council members. She brought up an apparently ongoing problem with obtaining books from the local school districts for their students enrolled in the Seton Schools, particularly Beekmantown Central. There are also problems with health bills. Apparently there was miscommunication regarding the book order, which went out to BCS on July 1. The books are not here yet. State Education regulations provide no payment by the public schools for shipping. This difficulty with all public schools was discussed. The kids are the ones suffering, as they do not have necessary books. There was talk of point persons in our schools who are taxpayers in the districts which must be dealt with. There was discussion of addressing this issue with Action BOCES Superintendent Paul Scott in the form of a letter on this issue, which has previously been sent to our Superintendent, Sr. Ellen Rose.

### Cathy Russell – Seton Catholic

Cathy submitted a written report, which was available to all Council members. The Middle States Dinner is October 19, 2015 at Seton Catholic. Christine Boule received a Fellowship – congratulations Christine! Students in the business class are starting a school store. Chris noted that enrollment was up – Lynn has the last seven years graphed and will present this later. Cathy pointed out that math teachers are a problem as they are hard to find. Chris Hay threw out the suggestion of perhaps paying math teachers more.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Academic

See the Principals Reports.

### Buildings and Grounds

Steve Gagnier indicated the fuel lines at Seton Academy need to be replaced as they are rusted through and this could cause an oil leak. MARS Mechanical will cost \$2,400 - \$2,500 for this. He is discussing wood chips for the playground with John Flynn at Peru. Panic hardware for the doors is being discussed with Terry Branon – there is reimbursement through New York State for a Safety Program. Steve is working on a maintenance plan.

### Catholic Identity

No report.

### Development:

Lynn Gilbert reported. She discussed a common application for the schools. She passed out various samples of school materials, which have gone to the printer. Lynn is working with a representative of the Chamber of Commerce regarding getting information about our schools out through private sources such as realtors.

## Finance:

*Seton Academy* – John Deon provided several written reports. John indicated that the bills have all been paid and that the Diocesan one-day audit went well.

The 2015-2016 Seton Academy Budget was presented and discussed. John tried to make it balance. He pointed out that the bulk for the expenses were for employees and benefits. There is a decrease of \$5,366.00 from last year. The budget does not include Daniel's technology position or the printing costs for the materials Lynn was authorized to obtain but there is \$30,000 in the development budget included in this spending plan. A motion to approve this budget was made by Msgr. Duprey, seconded by Brian Snell and approved unanimously.

*Seton Catholic* – Sally Yanulavich provided a report regarding expenses and receipts to date. This was reviewed and discussed. They are trying a new program. The school is getting \$53,000.00 for mandated services. Chris Hay pointed out that this money needs to be set-aside for those.

## Fundraising:

Sister Helen indicated that the magazine drive has started. Ms. Dame will handle the Garage Sale. The October agenda will include a presentation on the Gala.

## Student Life

No report.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

1) Plattsburgh High School tuition rates being discussed for out of district students are a concern as they are lower than ours. There was discussion regarding the per pupil cost for PHS students and it was pointed out that in 2011 those were \$12,300 for regular ed students and \$26,000 for special ed students.

2) Dress Code discussion. Cathy Russell brought to the Council's attention a discussion regarding a different type of polo shirt with Seton Catholic Knights on the shirt. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding which logo appears more athletic. Brian pointed out that the kids are excited about the new logo. Patrick McGill moved to approve the new logo for polo shirts; seconded by Msgr. Duprey. The motion was approved with one no vote.

3) Sunday basketball practices. Cathy brought up that with the move to the MVAC for basketball there will be Monday games and the basketball coaches wanted to practice on Sunday if there was a Monday game scheduled. Patrick McGill moved that the Council allow Sunday basketball practices, which was seconded by Brian Snell. The motion was defeated unanimously.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment** (Closing Prayer by Msgr. Duprey)

Motion by Stacie Chapman; seconded by Steve Gagnier; approved.

**Next Meeting at Seton Catholic on TUESDAY, October 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Note the Meeting Dates for the 2015-2016 Academic Year:**

SC – Seton Catholic    SA – Seton Academy

10/27/15–SC; 12/1/15-SA; 1/26/16-SC; 2/23/16-SA; 3/22/16-SC; 4/19/16-SA  
5/24/16-SC; and 6/28/16-SA

Respectfully Submitted

Michael J. Howley  
Council Secretary