

**St. Mary Education Committee**

**October 23, 2024 – 5:30 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Matt Durbin, David Gavin, Amanda Wurth, Andrew DuPerrieu, Blake Cvengros, Krista Lea, Paul Humm, Austin Smith

**Members Not Present:** Father Gary Clark, Colleen Stovesand, Kristen Stone

**St. Mary /Diocesan Staff Present:** Monica Hayden, Mary Smith, Ashley Wright, Robin Mowers, David Kessler

**Meeting Called to Order – 5:30 pm**

**Opening Prayer**

**Approval of Minutes – Approved by consensus**

**Episcopal Vicar Update – Absent**

**Administrative Updates**

Director Updates – Verbal

Tom Deshler will be off for up to 3 months. There is no back up for Tom when he is off. We have a new employee who has been working with Tom. Will ask Tom for a list of contacts for maintenance issues.

The system applied for and received 2 grants through the Department of Homeland Security. These grants were in the amounts of \$100k for the elementary and \$150k for the MS/HS. They will be used for a new PA system, to expand the door key fob system, for improved door alarms, and additional exterior lighting. These enhancements will take time in order to comply with the requirements of the grant (the approval process to spend the funds).

Have also received a Ronald McDonald grant for push button alarms for a 3-year period. The system is app or desktop based.

Elementary School – Verbal

Mr. Myers will be off for an extended time due to illness.

A new kindergarten teacher has been hired. She is new to the area and has four children in the system.

A full-time custodian started last week.

We welcomed 3 new students to the school after fall break.

The vestibule project is now complete. We are pleased with how it looks and functions.

The annual Blessing of the Pets was held the week before fall break.

Parent/teacher conferences are taking place this week.

The priests are doing a good job with their rotation. Bishop Medley was here for mass this week.

Jr. Vikings basketball and cheer will need volunteers to make the program happen this year. Mr. Myers had been responsible for leading the Jr. Vikings program. We have parents ready to help and are confident it will be a good season.

High/Middle School – No Report

### **Committee Reports**

#### Academics

Current focus on MS/HS observations and feedback.

#### Advancement

Held a meeting before fall break. Plan to send out information on the annual fund to so stakeholders and community have a better understanding of the annual fund and its importance.

Have received a restricted donation to renovate the weight room.

Auction work is ongoing. Have received good feedback on the request for volunteers. Have sold 200 tickets up to this point. One change to the event this year is that there will be a cash bar.

#### Catholic Identity

Had a meeting with a focus on student participation in masses. Working to get a baseline on student participation, including at their parish.

#### Enrollment

Will be highlighting student participation in clubs and activities. Discussed marking to Catholics at public schools.

#### Facilities

Held a meeting with a focus on a master facilities plan. Will obtain a copy of HVAC audit performed over the summer to see current status and future needs. Discussed items outside of HVAC that need to be considered. Items included roof, lighting, electrical, and plumbing. Will try to obtain original building plans.

#### Finance

Gathering information on local school salary schedules. Working to establish a timeline to increase teacher pay in order to be competitive to attract and retain the most qualified employees.

Governance

In process of making changes to SMEC members roles and responsibilities to make members more visible, and to align with Strategic Plan.

Student Life

First meeting to be held Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business** – Referral Program – Need to finalize  
SMEC Schedule Change  
Amendment 2

Plan to change SMEC meetings to every other month. Will review bylaws at future meeting to ensure schedule change complies with requirements.

The information on Amendment 2 will be sent out system wide.

Referral program information will be distributed to be reviewed and discussed further in at the November meeting.

**New Business** – David Kessler Training

**Next Meeting** – November 20, 2024

**Closing Prayer**

**Advancement Report for SMEC  
October 2024**

**Annual Fund and Tuition Assistance:**

2024-2025 Goals:

- Annual Fund includes Viking Society contributions and runs from July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025.

Fundraising 2024-25 (July 1-June 30)	Goal	As of 10/21/24
Annual Fund (Including Viking Society)	\$300,000	\$135,871
Fr. Lew White ( <i>Catholic Only Tuition Assistance</i> )	\$40,000	\$52,673
General Tuition Assistance ( <i>Catholic and Non-Catholic Tuition Assistance</i> )	\$100,000	\$102,915
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$440,000</b>	<b>\$291,459</b>

- As of 10/21//2024, we have raised **\$163,262 in Restricted Gifts** (Weight Room Renovation, maintenance funding, grant funding for an audit, Adopt-a-Class/Adopt-a-Subject, funding for drama club, etc.)
- As of 10/21/2024, **Booster Club has received \$18,050** in sponsorships and team specific donations.

**Grant Update:**

In October, we received notice that we had been **awarded two grants totaling almost \$260,000 to enhance safety** across the school system:

1. \$250,000 from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Grant (\$150,000 for the MS/HS and \$100,000 for the ES) to fund updated exterior lighting, door alarms, and all new PA systems.
2. \$7,798 from Ronald McDonald Charities to fund the TeamAlert system, which allows teachers and staff to have access to a comprehensive panic alert system.

**Fundraising Events:**

- The 20th St. Mary Dinner and Benefit Auction - Saturday, November 9th. The theme is *Merry and Bright*. We're asking for donations of trips, vacation homes, unique experiences, or open to other ideas. Volunteer opportunities will be advertised soon.