



# CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Cathedral School Advisory Council  
November 17, 2020  
5:30-7:00

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Council members Joanie Bayne, Kate Gobel, Kristin Russo, Sara Vanderhoff, Andrea Molloy, Jake Hanover, Wendy Crum, Christen Abernathy, Sarah Bracelin, Brian O’Sullivan, Frances Virden, Gretchen Sturm and School Principal Amy Biggs.

Council members Tom Brenneke, Veery Harper and Msgr. Brennan were absent from the meeting.

The meeting was called to order over Zoom on 11/17/20 at 5:30 p.m. by chairperson Brian O’Sullivan.

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Mrs. Biggs led a prayer

### **II. Parent Comments**

Brian asked if there were any plans to bring middle school students back on campus. Less related to academic more related to social interactions. 1-2 hours per week? Goal is that they are not operating in isolation. Mrs. Biggs explained it’s a complicated subject. Limited in-person instruction started with daycare kids first, only allowing 10 kids/cohort, 2 hours/day. Middle school faces a few challenges - not worth it to commute for only 2 hours. Small children not the super spreaders - 13/14yo’s are a different story. Staff is concerned having the older children in person. Possibly not doing limited in person instruction that last week so people can travel and be with family if they want. Timing is not right, will evaluate after the 1st of the year. Kids can only be there for 2 hours and have to be with the same teacher and the same cohort - so potentially not worth the while. It doesn't mean they can socialize with their friends - it requires sitting at their desk with a mask. Big picture is that right now it's not in the plan to do before Christmas break.

Kristin asked if the person who spoke with Brian about this would be satisfied with an online interaction or if they requested in person interaction - physical presence is the point. Mrs. Biggs not comfortable bringing older kids into the mix right now. Asked the teachers what we could do for community building - how can we engage the kids outside of teaching the curriculum. The issue is the suggested method to get through the pandemic is isolation. Joanie said that it is tricky because we all have friends at various schools and they are making it work. That is where this is stemming from. When at sporting events on the weekends - they are seeing other kids going back. Mrs. Biggs has had only had 3 parents speak to her about this. Another factor is we don’t pull from one neighborhood - since there are kids from all over the city - the turnaround time isn't quick enough to bring everyone in and out safely. St. John Fischer has a smaller community - and travel time isn't as far for those families and parents. We will re-evaluate in January. Christina seconded Joanie’s point about not being able to make it work when other schools are - it feels like its not a priority and the option would be welcomed. If people want to make the commute they can choose to do so. Middle school feels like the forgotten group in this - the kids are frustrated and don’t like

being on zoom for 6 hours a day. It's difficult and it needs to be addressed. A lot of middle school families feel the same way. Kristin mentioned that at what point do we take into account the teachers risk preferences - we don't want to pressure the teachers.

Mrs. Biggs asked Andrea as having 2 middle school girls. Andrea said it's not an academic thing - its "being normal" and socializing. She was a different child after she got to go to school. It's any sort of communication - it's not academic based. Teachers are doing a great job - but kids are struggling. From a community standpoint - feedback is that ANYTHING would be appreciated. Communication doesn't feel robust focused towards middle school. Mrs. Biggs needs to go back and see how creative she can get with middle school in mind. Mrs. Biggs asked if middle school parents were okay with not having every subject every day. Overall seems like everyone is okay with that. Jake said it sounds like they are willing to do anything to get their kids back in school in SOME capacity. Jake asked Mrs. Biggs how we can best support them. Mrs. Biggs is going to brainstorm, but has to go back to guidance and assess the hoops to jump through. Lots of ideas - if you want socializing maybe we wipe the schedule to make it work. There are a lot of layers, and for purpose of time, we need to move on and come back to this subject.

### **III. Minutes**

Minutes were recorded by video at the last meeting - looking into getting the transcript from Zoom.

### **IV. Principal Report**

Twelve kids made their first communion last week. 3rd graders made first communion. 4th and 5th graders are sponsoring a food drive. We are keeping up with service during the pandemic. Our charities depend on us. Gearing up after Thanksgiving for the first Sunday of advent.

### **V. Parent Association Report**

Kate said they had just wrapped up wreath sale which was really successful. Brought in over 15k, over 7k of that is profit. More than budgeted for - so looking how to adjust budget and what that looks like. Used Cheddar-Up for the wreath sale, so all orders were able to be placed online...trying to analyze what was the difference that contributed to the wreath sale success. Made more money than we have in a long time

- pickup is safe and under cover on Dec 3-5th. Wanted to plan a general PA meeting for Dec 3rd in the under covered area but that has been cancelled. Will hopefully be able to do something at some point for a PA meeting.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Report – Amy Biggs**

We are doing well - still in the black - ahead in tuition income stemming from more students and more non-Catholic students. Not hitting extended care income. Normally good revenue stream which is around \$80k - so that is lost right now. The additional tuition will help offset. There are other unforeseen expenses. Fundraising on track to hit goal. Starting 2021-22 budget process too. Budget presentation is coming up. Teachers are now at 95% salary scale - no layoffs - paying them as planned.

#### **Development Report – Joannie Bayne**

Celebrate Cathedral update - huge thank you to Jake and Kiki Hanover for creating the videos/slides and online event on their own time. Thank you to parents who sent in interviews and the children. As of today \$47k+ - which is an incredible improvement. Made more in 3 days virtually. Waiting on some additional checks and employer matches. Projecting around \$60k. If we hit \$60k, only have to do \$25k for April in Parish. Surpassing all fundraising goals - everyone should be proud to be part of this community in a really tough time. Good viewership for video series. First video had same number of views or greater than families at the school. Idea of a tracker to see how close we are to hitting a goal - that component could be helpful. Include the

parishioners and grandparents etc. for donations. Build a better landing page so you don't have to go to it from the school website. April in Parish: want to get a head start on it after the 1st of the year.

Everyone start thinking who you could reach out to in the community for donations. Lots of retailer and home donations for April in Parish. Start thinking about it. Class projects will be elevated for the event with the new art teacher

#### **Marketing Report – Kristin Russo**

Disappointed PK open house was canceled; the good news is that a lot of what Kiki worked on can still be leveraged in January. Lots of the videos for Celebrate Cathedral can be re-purposed for the next open house. Kristin spoke with Jesuit to see how they handled their open house and marketing. A strong call to action - in a good place. Thinking of ways to build community - one idea is being “Flamingo’d” - .... with a hashtag to spread the word about Cathedral. Drive by donation idea for middle school birthday. Be creative to make the community feel close and spread the word about the school while getting everyone involved. “Tag your it” idea...marketing - adventure - service oriented - community all in one. IDEA: Can explore a family service-based event for the middle schoolers to feel involved.

Social service programs that bring the kids together in a permitted environment. Blanchet house idea. Room parents could be involved. Potluck in the park probably won't work - can do Blanchet house potentially. Can't do all the service we are used to doing during these times.

#### **Communications Report – Jake Hanover**

Not much of a report - asking what kind of report everyone would like to see. Really trying to inform and educate how important support is right now. Being direct, yet sensitive.

### **VII Future Business**

Next meeting is scheduled for 2/16/21 - will review budget for 2021-22.

Any other orders of business? We have 15 spots in PK already taken. Kinder looking good - getting lots of applications. Still focusing on PK and K. Enrollment in a really great place with a lot of happy families. Thank you to the middle school parents for feedback on limited in person.

#### **Adjournment**