

# Board of Education Meeting

President Jim Goetz called the meeting to order at 6:33

**Board Member Participants:** Jim Goetz, Doug Janulewicz, Melissa Swiecicki, Craig Ames, and Tony Huerta.

**Also Attending:** Principal Trish Wallinger, Kellie Kouba, and Collette Borland.

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016

**Minutes By:** Doug Janulewicz

Jen moved and Craig seconded a motion to approve the minutes from September 2015.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**School** – We are back in session as of January 5 for students. The teachers spent the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> working on Terra Nova Data Analysis.

Action items for the Board of Education:

Please review the documents we sent out before the Christmas Break. They included the Technology Plan, the Strategic Plan, and the beginnings of the School Goals. All of these documents were submitted to the AdvancEd Organization as part of our Progress Reporting process. More information can be found in the school office, but the documents are a comprehensive look at how we are executing our School Improvement goals and plans.

The next task on the radar is to work on the Student Handbook. This was initially undertaken a few years ago, but was tabled. We plan to begin again in the spring of this year. Teachers will do a preliminary look and we will ask for input from the Board of Education as well as the Home and School Board members.

New Information:

We have some new grant opportunities that the teachers can take advantage of. The Omaha Archdiocesan Educational Foundation offers grants for projects in Catholic Schools, RE Programs, and parishes. The deadline is March. The Ritonya- Buscher- Poehling grants are from a local foundation and funds classroom projects. The deadline for this one is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Both grants can be requested by teachers, freeing up Kellie for larger requests. By way of explanation,

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the information requested would have to be provided by teachers anyway and this will save time in the long run.

Big events for the remainder of January:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pictures- January 13<sup>th</sup>
- Mission Imagination and end of quarter on January 15<sup>th</sup>
- School of Faith- No School for students on January 18<sup>th</sup>
- Geography Bee – grades 4-8 on January 29<sup>th</sup>
- Catholic Schools Week- January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup> (see the Schedule of Events)

The Accreditation progress reports were submitted and we are waiting on approval. The school had to convert a lot of documents to electronic (electronic version was either not available or created).

Thank you for your support of the school mission. We appreciate your service to the St. Mary's community.

**Home and School-** Skating party was held on January 11, 2016. The next food night is planned for January 21, 2016. There will be an auction meeting on Sunday, January 17.

**School Development-** Team captains for different alumni groups planned. Home for holidays, December 20 mass program had 43 alumni and 4 returning teachers. Garret Sims will help with alumni social media. First communion/confirmation cloth project is looking for grandparents with sewing skills. Creating a database for grandparents. There will be a Prek/K dinner on February 23, 2016.

**Sports-** Basketball is underway. We have 13/102 kids. There are games every weekend and everything seems to be going good, no sportsmanship problems.

**Grants-** Submitted Shell grant for science lab-\$20,000; winner announced in April. Shopko grant for \$250 for lab supplies. Level Readers request for every classroom. Looking into Cook for capital grants..

**Finance-**Facilities are \$40-50,000 over budget. The patches that have been put in place are no longer working. Would like to install thermostats in all rooms, looking into a Stenson matching grant for this work (approximately \$70,000). Have a request for an Ignite the Faith grant, waiting for response. Half of the school roof needs redone. Also have an issue with bats; will need to fill in holes and remediate the bat/bat residue. Pump in boiler was leaking; fixed over Christmas break but also had a pipe leak(s). Had to remediate asbestos insulation over piping while repairing leaks.

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**Parish Council-** No report.

**Religious Education-** Elizabeth Tomaso reported the following:

Religious Education-follow up

Nov. –Thankful

Thanksgiving RE Mass held on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 & 6:45pm -nice parent showing non- perishable food drive and a monetary collection for perishable foods for the St. Mary's Thanksgiving Baskets, any extra items will go to the Bellevue Food Pantry.  
No RE on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dec.-Advent- Jubilee Year of Mercy

Dec. 2- Students and Families participated in the Nativity Lighting.

Dec. 16- All RE event-6<sup>th</sup> grade presented Los Posada. Did a very nice job Changed the format and worked very well. Was well received by the students and we had several parents join us for this event. This help curtail individual class parties.  
No RE on Dec. 23 & 30. Classes resumed on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.

NEW and Ongoing\*Different actives and events have been presented for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This will continue throughout the year. We have been identifying Homemade Mercy, activities and challenges of Mercy through the newsletter and in the classrooms. \*

Also presenting Family Prayer home altars weekly.

Jan-Reconciliation and Circle of Grace

All classes except 2<sup>nd</sup> are schedule for sessions from the Circle of Grace program this month, mandated by the Archdiocese.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade is preparing for their Frist Reconciliation on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
RE Mass on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>

Feb. Lent and Love

First Communion Parents meeting- Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Gloria Deo Bookstore comes to St. Mary's Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-8:30pm-Gym

Ash Wed, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>- No RE “Take your Family to Mass Day”

Feb. 13, & 14<sup>th</sup> Blessings of all Marriages during all Masses- Valentine's Day  
RE 8<sup>th</sup> Passion

March- Mission- Easter-Sacraments

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## Adult Faith Formation

Current programs:

Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelley-starts Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Dn Jeff Braxton

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible by Jeff Cavins & Sarah Christmyer starts Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>-Dn Chuck L'Archevesque

10 Great Dates by Claudia and Dave Arp- starts April 23-Mark and Barb White

TMIY

## Family Life-

Couples in Christ-

Past events well attended and enjoyed.

Jan- FAM

Building the Domestic Church, the Family Fully Alive" now called, "Family Afternoon Movies"

A family movie night based on Catholic values with optional service projects for families.

This program is free for all families.

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> (FAM) "Lion King" Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm-4:30pm at the Parish Center Theme-

Reconciliation and Stewardship-Baby Shower for EPS

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>- "Incredibles"

Excited to be able to offer this monthly program to our parish families

## Youth Ministry-

High School: First meeting on Sunday January 17, 2016-game night for 9-12 grades, 7-8:30 in St. Marks.

Junior High: First meeting Wednesday January 20, 2016 at 7:45-8:45 pm in Parish Center.

Other events: Nebraska Walk for Life in Lincoln; Pancake breakfast Sunday February 28, 2016 after all morning masses; High School Spring Retreat, Saturday March 5, 2016 (forms due February 5, 2016); Steubenville Youth Conference, July 8-10, 2016 in Springfield, MO (forms due January 31, 2016).

Goals for this upcoming semester are to renew efforts in reaching out to parents of teens, encourage and empower them to continue to be the primary faith influence for their families. Accompanying these goals are our continued efforts to provide opportunities for small group discipleship/mentorship for teens ready to take a deeper step in their faith.

Also in the process of looking for a new YM Assistant. Tina has taken more hours at Fairview Elementary and has stepped down.

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**President Report-** Need a talent show audition judge for Friday, January 22, 2016. Melissa volunteered.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
The meeting was then adjourned at 7:35 p.m.