

Shrine Schools Unified School Board

Approved Minutes from January 10, 2017 (7:30pm to 9:00pm)

USB Members Present: C Buchanan, K Moore, B Connelly, A Knapp, M Mio, N True, W Romano, M Zink, K Orvis, M Lampertius, and Bishop Bob (via phone)

Also in Attendance: J Mio, M Armstrong, J Bero, Father Kevin, and Father Joe

1. Opening Prayer: Father Joe led the USB in an opening prayer.
2. Approval of Minutes: The December minutes were reviewed and approved.
3. Finance Committee: B Connelly reviewed detailed background information and relevant data, as well as the tuition recommendation for the 2017-2018 school year. The USB was supportive of the proposed tuition hike. This incremental increase will still keep us competitive but will accommodate our anticipated new costs. The proposal will go to the Finance Council for approval.
4. Marketing Update: M Mio reiterated the importance of Google reviews: the committee has a plan to gradually increase the number of reviews in cyberspace. The committee is also working with Mike Massucci on a 'parent camp' for the fall. There is also focus on the messaging on our school signs. Matt noted the nice press release on the appointment of Leigh Davidson as ECC director. As of now, the official 'christening' of the ECC is planned for September 13 or 14. The recent 'extracurricular' survey is currently under review. In addition, the mid-year survey will go out on February 6. To gain student perspective, two student interns will be assisting the committee on some projects.
5. Early Childhood Center Updates: The final drawings are being approved. Off-site construction will begin shortly. There were several good PR articles recently, including the Detroit News and the Michigan Catholic. Dozens of preschool applications are in hand, and a high number of tours are happening. In addition, we will be present at preschool night events in Royal Oak, Troy and Bloomfield Hills.
6. Enrollment Updates:
 - a. J Bero reported that current SGS enrollment is 481.
 - b. M Armstrong reported that the academy is down one student while the high school is unchanged and expects three new students in January. They are publicizing upcoming CYO nights to a broader audience.
7. Catholic Identity Update: N True shared that group Masses are going well. The Catholic book sale has been scheduled. She also publicized the upcoming family programs featuring Peter and Debbie Herbeck speaking on the challenges of raising children amid the current culture. Presentations are scheduled for January 19 and February 2. The committee hopes that any conflicting practices can be cancelled to encourage attendance.
8. Additional School Information: M Armstrong shared statistics on number of applications this year versus last year. She is very encouraged. Also, the senior class is starting to rake in significant scholarship money (currently over 2M for the 60 seniors). Also, the seniors are seeing high acceptance rates, including over 50% acceptance at U of M. M Mio noted that due

to new FAFSA deadlines that colleges are currently recruiting juniors and sophomores. Meg noted that our 8th graders are ahead of the college game with AVIANCE accounts in place. Principal James Mio reported that SHS has applied to become an SAT testing site; we already do this for ACT exams. In addition, the seminary is sending two seminarians to shadow our religion teachers and gain pedagogical experience. It was reiterated that this year's Catholic Schools Week will be the most comprehensive effort yet—the schools are working together and tying it in to the 75th anniversary. Father Joe and Father Kevin have taken several students to seminary events.

9. Closing Prayer: Father Kevin led the USB in a closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.