

## ST. MARY'S EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Called to order by Sara Nosbush in the St. Mary's Parish Meeting Room at 5:32 p.m. on Tues., June 13, 2023
1. Prayer ~ Fr. Mark Steffl led prayer
  2. Roll call ~ Present: Fr. Mark Steffl, Nikki Fischer, Jenny Miller, Sara Nosbush, Randy Sellner, Amber Schroeffer and Peter Roufs  
Absent: George Schwint, Sam Rosemeier, Blair Folkens, Matt Grausam    Guests: Jamie Pietig
  3. May minutes were approved.
  4. June agenda was approved with three additional action/discussion items (8,9,10)
- B. ENRICHMENT ~ none
- C. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
1. MSHSL video and Membership Renewal...the MSHSL video was emailed to the E & C members to view. The request for Membership Renewal for 2023-24 was submitted. Motion carried. .
  2. Tomahawk Conference Update...Lester Prairie's petition to join was denied by the Tomahawk conference, and will be without a conference as of 2024-25. The vote may go back to the MSHSL, in which they would assign them a conference, which most likely will be the Tomahawk. Mayer Lutheran inquired about being a part of the Tomahawk conference, but has since joined a private metro conference. MVL will be out of the Tomahawk conference after 2023-24. BOLD, RRC, and Mountain Lake considered joining the Tomahawk conference, but have decided to stay where they are now. A "Super Conference" was proposed for 2024-25...a combination of the Tomahawk and Valley conferences. Each conference would play teams within their own league, but would be able to step into the Super Conference if teams are lacking within their own prospective conference, so as to have more game/meet opportunities for their teams (Ex. Wrestling).  
*(Raising Admissions costs to our sporting events from \$4 to \$5 for students & senior citizens and \$6 to \$7 for adults was approved via email/July 2023)*
  3. Policy Review - 1st Reading...the E & C Policies were reviewed, and notes were made as to the updates that were proposed. After the 2nd reading, approval will be sought from the E & C Committee via email in July, so the school handbooks can be updated before the start of the new school year. *(2nd Reading was approved via email/July 2023.)*
  4. Fundraiser Sr. Class Trip...Peter reported that the 2024 Seniors had an option to go to Florida for their Senior Class trip, or going on a separate trip, which the school would not be involved in the planning, fundraising, etc. They chose to go with a school trip, but were allowed to change their itinerary to a resort destination, rather than past year's destinations (Universal Studios, Sea World, beach day). The 2024 trip (April 2-6, 2024...right after Easter vacation) will also include an extra day as a cost savings, and the seniors will make that day up in May, as their last day will now be May 13th, rather than May 10th. Fundraisers (softener salt, nacho sales at basketball games, Swany's Pizza) were bought up for approval. Motion carried. Ms. Marni Malecek will be their Advisor (taking over for Mrs. Botz) and have contact with the travel agent. Class trip deposit remained the same as other years, at \$100.00. All 2024 Seniors (17/17) indicated their desire to go on the class trip, and paid the deposit.
  5. Athletic Training - NUMC...Peter brought to the board the New Ulm Medical Center's proposal for the increase in athletic training services (as they are not covering their expenses with what we are paying currently). NUMC would like to assess the cost to us at 80% by the 2026-27 school year, going up in increasing amounts from now until then, starting with \$2025.00 for 2023-24 and ending at \$15,000 by 2026-27. St. Mary's School would like to approach Sleepy Eye Medical Center as another option.
  6. Staff Updates...Peter stated that the Elementary Music and Middle School Choir position is filled with a verbal "Yes"; The school nurse position was going to go back to being provided by Brown County Public Health at reduced hours, but has now been filled and accepted by Sara Schultz, at 15 hours/week. Peter thanked Brown County Public Health for being flexible and understanding in the process; The kitchen help position is still open (30 hours/week), but Peter is in conversation with another prospect.
  7. E and C Board Membership...Peter welcomed Jamie Pietig (and Dan Braulick/not present) to the committee, whose terms will start in August, 2023.

8. Washington D.C. trip... Peter brought up a trip to Washington D.C. (July 15-18, 2024) for incoming students (and parents), grades 9-12 in 2024-25 for approval. *World Classrooms* out of Aberdeen, South Dakota would coordinate the trip. Cost would be \$2300.00-\$2400.00. Advisors would be Mrs. Rachel Windschitl and Mrs. Ann Christensen. They would like to have 40 participants so they could have their own bus to destinations after they fly out to Washington D.C. Fundraising is TBD.  
Motion carried.
9. Recruitment committee... Tim Schwartz, Judd Walter & Rob Brandl approached Mr. Roufs about having a formal “committee” in order to contact families via phone or personal visits with the prospect of sending their children to St. Mary’s School (focusing on groups: 0-3 years old, Homeschoolers, Hispanics)...just another avenue to increase enrollment. As members of this committee, they would be given an outline of what to say for frequently asked questions, such as tuition costs/supports, travel/bussing, etc. E & C Board Members would be invited to be a part of the committee as well, to show their dedication and support of St. Mary’s School. Please share any additional thoughts/ideas with Mr. Peter Roufs.
10. Fees/Rental chart... Peter sought approval for the 2023-24 Fee/Rental chart. Mileage would be updated to the going rate, and all other fees would remain the same.  
Motion carried.

#### D. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. School~Peter reported that a second diocesan workshop is scheduled for staff on March 15, 2024; He thanked Randy Sellner and Blair Folkens for serving on the E & C Committee, and that their time, effort and insight were greatly appreciated; The High School will be adding a Physics course starting Fall 2023. SEPS was approached to see if any of their students would be interested, but declined the offer; Grades K-2 will be adding Catechesis of the Good Shepherd this coming school year, Fall 2023; Other updates to the Auditorium include stage lighting and sound updates; The SMS coaches will all use the Remind app, starting in 2023-24. (FACTS will also still be used for messaging parents from school.)
2. Religious Education~ Fr. Steffl reported in Sam’s absence that Totus Tuus was attended by 30 students, grades 1-6, during the day program, and 11 students, grades 7-12 in the evening, June 4-8th. They are looking at doing it 1 week later in 2024, due to many things going on the first week of June (school athletics); Diocesan youth camps (Camp Beloved for girls & Camp Greatness for boys) are being promoted out at Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Sleepy Eye; The Valley Fair Server Trip is coming up on June 21st.
3. Pastor/Superintendent~Fr. Steffl reported that an issue with the foundation near the faculty copier room will need to be addressed soon. Costs are upwards to near \$50,000; The Caribbean Knight Party fundraiser was once again a great success, and raised over \$200,000. A portion of the money will go to the gym air conditioning project costs, set to be completed in the coming years. Auditorium upgrades would be done in the summer of 2024; Financial reports are available quarterly. St. Mary’s is able to offer great benefits (health) for staff with the addition of the diocesan-wide coverage that was instituted this last year (2023-24).
4. Financial~no report
5. Other committee reports, comments from E & C Members... Amber Schroepfer brought up some general concerns to the board.

#### E. FUTURE AGENDA

1. MEETING DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Church Parish Meeting Room
2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

F. PRAYER~ Fr. Steffl led prayer.

G. ADJOURNMENT~ 7:21 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marti Schroepfer