

SMCS Board of Trustees Meeting
12/16/2015
Minutes

Present: Kathleen Healy Osland, Helen Englebert, Mary Krueger, Ann Rasmussen, Nancy Braatz, Pam Seidl, Jeff Berg, Kristin Bergstrom, Stew Koskinen, Dan Engelhard

Excused: Father Mike Ingold, Father Paul Paider, Sue Pawlowski, Father Larry Seidl, Gary Elmer, Pat Breen, Chris Hartrich, Dustin MClone,

Guests: Jeanne Lee, Pat Batey

Meeting Start: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Opening Prayer – Lead by Mary Krueger

Open Forum – The Board welcomed Christine Cedergren. Ms. Cedergren is a parent of children in the system and requested that the BOT consider adding a gifted and talented program. This could be an opportunity to grow enrollment and improve retention. It could also enhance competitiveness over time. We discussed the NJSD G&T program and magnet schools. See attached letter for more details.

Approval of November 2015 Minutes: No quorum

President's Report – Complete written report handed out at meeting; highlights include:

- **Curriculum**
 - Professional Development
 - Pupil Services Team
 - Effectiveness Project
- **Enrollment**
 - Total is now 915
 - Early registration incentive closed November 24
- **Staffing**
 - Filling 3 open positions
- **Fine Arts**
 - Christmas concerts were very successful
- **Business Services**
 - Piloting tablets
 - New elementary laptops
 - Moving more to train the trainer with Rob
- **Finance**
 - All entries and classifications have been approved
 - DPI complete and in compliance
- **Fund Development**
 - Ahead of last year's progress
 - Received significant middle school donation
 - Zephyrfest planning underway

Committee Reports

- **Executive** – Did not officially meet in November. Reviewed strategic planning results. Had a very long discussion around the overall approach. Pam to update the draft.
- **Athletics** – No report.
- **Building and Grounds** – Kathleen sent email in advance.
- **Catholic Identities** – Jeff sent email in advance.
- **Finance Budget** – New finance report provided in advance
- **Fund Development** – Addressed by Ms. Englebert in the presidents report.
- **Governance** - Board and President evaluations forthcoming
- **Marketing/Advancement** - Met on Tuesday and discussed state of the schools presentation

Old Business:

- Brief discussion on finance goals.

New Business:

- Reviewed draft calendar and provided input.

Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Nancy Braatz, second by Kathleen Healy – Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Engelhard.

The Cedergren Family
1820 Forest Glen Road, Neenah, WI 54956

December 14, 2015

Mrs. Pam Siedl
838 Louise Road
Neenah, WI 54956

Dear Pam,

As President of the SMCS Board of Trustees we would like to request that you please strongly consider offering more formal Gifted and Talented program / options within SMCS schools. My I please speak during Open Forum at the December meeting to present my thoughts on why the system should consider a formal gifted and talented program? I appreciate your consideration. I am aware the Board is working on a Strategic Plan and you are hopeful that a gifted and talented program could be considered as a part of that plan.

May I please come to the December Board meeting?

Please consider:

- A Gifted and Talent Program will benefit our system by attracting new families to our system.
- It will also allow our system to retain our brightest kids. Unfortunately without this option, many of these kids are leaving our system for public school district options such as Neenah Joint School District – Magnet program, charter schools or other parochial schools in the area. Long term, we want these kids to be SMCS alumni!
- All children regardless of their abilities deserve a Catholic education

In addition, we would like to see a stronger focus on STEM offerings. One of the avenues to do so is Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

In order to remain competitive, we must make sure that we are embracing and encouraging innovation, creativity and curiosity. We are confident there are options and solutions that can be implemented without a large financial investment.

I sincerely appreciate your time and dedication to the SMCS as a Board member and your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Christine and Tom Cedergren