

SMCS Board of Trustees – Meeting Minutes

Meeting held: July 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Kristen Bergstrom, Bill Bittner, Helen Englebert, Terry Jack, Phil Kerwin, Beth Knapinski, Fr. Bob Kollath, Kathleen Healy Osland, Steve Pable, Natalie Ripley, Bryan Rosiejka, Tim Schigur, Ron Schreier, Paul Seveska, Ron Steffen, Lori Vegso

ABSENT: Fr. Dennis Bergsbaken, David DeWitt, Mary Krueger, Fr. Paul Paider

GUESTS: Jill Ahles, Kelly Bernstein-Weiss, Tina Fairweather, Chelsey Kind, Jeanine League, Jennifer Miller, Vicky Siegel

START TIME: 6:34 PM

OPENING PRAYER: Steve Pable

MISSION: *Preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives, rooted in the teachings of Christ, in our Catholic tradition.*

WELCOME – Mr. Pable provided a welcome to new Superintendent Tim Schigur.

MOTION

- Mr. Kerwin made a motion to hold the meeting via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2nd – Mr. Seveska
- Call to Vote – The motion passed unanimously.

RE-ENTRY PLAN

- Ms. Englebert provided two (2) documents prior to the meeting entitled “*Re-entry Plan for SMCS*” and “*SMCS Health Screening Protocols and Stay-at-Home Guidelines*”, respectively.
- Ms. Englebert introduced the Plan and noted the members of the Pandemic Steering Committee involved with establishing the Plan.
- Mr. Schigur highlighted various details of the Plan, including the following:

- The goal is to conduct in-person school for all students, 5 days per week.
- All campuses have sufficient square footage to maintain proper physical distancing.
- SMCS intends to follow guidance from the CDC, the County Health Department and the Diocese, as well as several committee members who have a medical background.
 - Some of the guidance includes screening students and Staff (*i.e.*, checking their body temperature) before each enters the building wherein the temperature must be 99.0 °F or less, and having an isolation room for individuals who fail the screening or are otherwise not feeling well.
- Mr. Schigur noted that the Plan is subject to change based on changes with the pandemic and guidance, among other things.
- Protocols and processes are being instituted to keep SMCS operational for the entire year.
- If parents have concerns with returning to school, they are asked to work with their respective Principals to resolve the issue.
- Mr. Schigur described what a typical school day will be like under the Plan.
- Mr. Schigur noted that SMCS is working with the bus companies to establish proper distancing guidelines and other practices while students are riding buses.
- SMCS will be leveraging SEESAW, GOOGLE CLASSROOM and MICROSOFT TEAMS distance learning platforms throughout the school year.
 - Mr. Rosiejka inquired whether the platforms will be utilized in tandem with classroom learning.
 - Mr. Schigur responded that the platform usage will follow the curriculum, but will not be interactive with the in-person classrooms.
 - Ms. Bergstrom inquired whether the platform usage would be sufficient for complete online learning (*e.g.*, if a family is not comfortable returning to an in-person school setting).
 - Mr. Schigur responded that the platforms would be sufficient for such online instruction.
 - Ms. Bergstrom inquired whether the physical space in the classrooms would be sufficient for safety of the students and teachers.
 - Mr. Schigur responded that there exists sufficient spacing, and that additional locations could be utilized if needed.
 - Ms. Bergstrom suggested that the term “isolation room” should be renamed to something that is more school friendly.
- Ms. Englebert reviewed the health screening protocols in greater detail.

- Ms. Englebert then made specific reference to the *SMCS Health Screening Protocols and Stay-at-Home Guidelines*, emphasizing the following 3 strategic intents therein:
 1. physical distancing
 2. wearing masks
 3. hand sanitizing
- Mr. Rosiejka inquired about the temperature-measuring device and its tolerances/calibration, noting that a threshold of 99.0 only provides leeway of 0.4 °F.
 - Mr. Schigur responded that 99.0 is the threshold guidance that has been given to SMCS by the professionals.
 - Mr. Schigur mentioned that they recognize the concern about the small temperature range, and had even considered establishing a threshold of 99.5, but felt that it would potentially increase the risk of infection to others, and therefore must default to the guidance provided.
 - Mr. Rosiejka noted that exceeding 99.0 merely indicates that there could be a problem, not that there necessarily is a problem, and that it allows for the individual to be checked by a professional before re-entering the school.
- Mr. Schreier inquired whether students who must be away from school will be able to participate online.
 - Mr. Schigur responded that that they would.
- Mr. Schreier noted that wearing masks is crucially important.
- Mr. Schreier inquired how sick time will be counted when a teacher is out of the classroom due to quarantine.
 - A succinct answer was not provided for this question.
- Mr. Schreier inquired whether Staff will be screened before entering the building.
 - Ms. Englebert responded that the screening will apply equally to students and Staff, and that there will not be a double standard.
- Mr. Schreier inquired as to how SMCS will be able to obtain a substitute when a teacher must be away from the classroom.
 - Mr. Kerwin responded that obtaining substitute teachers had been an issue prior to COVID-19, and will be even more difficult during the pandemic.
 - Mr. Kerwin implored Board Members to ask their respective contacts to consider obtaining a substitute teaching license and to consider filling such a role at SMCS.
 - Mr. Schigur acknowledged the issue, and stated that SMCS and the Pandemic Steering Committee do not yet have all of the answers, but will continue working diligently over the next several weeks to further enhance the Plan.

- Mr. Kerwin suggested that SMCS should designate a place and time for students to take a break from wearing masks, noting that such a break would be especially important for younger students.
- Mr. Pable noted that testing/screening is intended to be a daily routine, and suggested that this procedure will become the norm.
- Mr. Bittner noted that many parents often drop-off students only 5-10 minutes prior to the start of school. However, with the new screening procedures, parents may need to adjust that time to 30 minutes prior to the start of school.
 - Mr. Schigur agreed, but also noted that the school is considering having multiple entryways available for entry (*i.e.*, multiple screening sites) which could help alleviate some of the time requirements.
 - Ms. Englebert noted again that the screening procedure will apply equally to both students and Staff.
- Ms. Englebert noted that visitors to the schools will be limited to only those who have “purposeful reasons for serving the students”. Visitors will no longer be able to just stop in.
- Ms. Englebert noted that the Pandemic Steering Committee is also reviewing the schedules of Staff who service more than one location, and will make adjustments as necessary to minimize risk.
- Mr. Schreier inquired about students sharing items and about the lunch program.
 - Ms. Englebert noted that they are still evaluating the lunch program, which may include less choices, increased spacing, etc.
- Mr. Steffen noted that many structural modifications are being made to the school as a result of COVID-19, and inquired where the funding for such modifications is coming from.
 - Ms. Englebert responded that the funding so far has been coming out of the SMCS budget.
 - Mr. Pable inquired whether ESSER funds might available.
 - Ms. Englebert responded that SMCS is actively pursuing ESSER funds as another potential resource.
- Mr. Rosiejka inquired as to what role the Diocese has played in the development of the Plan, and whether the Plan must be consistent among all schools in the Diocese.
 - Ms. Englebert responded that the Diocese established some basic guidelines, but is generally allowing each school to develop a plan that individually works best for it.
 - Ms. Englebert noted that the Plan does not require approval from the Diocese.

- Mr. Pable noted that the Plan is in line with the Diocese, and will largely build upon the excellent work that was accomplished back in March, 2020.
- Mr. Seveska noted that flexibility is key, as we learned in March, and that both consistency and transparency is crucially important.

MOTION

- Mr. Seveska made a motion to approve the *Re-entry Plan for SMCS*.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- In response, Mr. Pable noted that the BOT must first make sure that all of the questions that are needed have been asked.
- Ms. Bergstrom noted that we need to make certain that parents are making the right choice for everyone, and not just taking actions which benefit their own student.
- Mr. Kerwin noted that Staff will be crucial.
- Mr. Kerwin noted that as Board Members, we need to be cognizant that if we receive any questions for which we do not know the answer, we should direct the person to Ms. Englebert and/or Mr. Schigur to ensure the message is consistent.

MOTION

- 2nd – Mr. Seveska's outstanding Motion was then seconded by Mr. Kerwin.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- Mr. Pable inquired whether SMCS will maintain local control of the school closing, should it be required.
 - Mr. Schigur responded that SMCS will maintain local control.
- Mr. Schreier noted that teachers will need emotional support.

MOTION

- Call to Vote - Mr. Seveska's outstanding motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION

- Mr. Rosiejka made a motion to obtain a paid ZOOM account for the Board of Trustees.
- 2nd – Mr. Seveska
- Ms. Englebert noted that she favored the motion, but that MICROSOFT TEAMS might be utilized to accomplish the same purpose.
- Mr. Pable indicated he would be willing to investigate it.
- Mr. Rosiejka then withdrew the motion.

CLOSING PRAYER: Ms. Bergstrom

MOTION

- Mr. Seveska made a motion to adjourn.
- 2nd – Ms. Bergstrom
- Call to Vote – The motion passed unanimously.

END TIME: 8:14 PM