

St. John Vianney Pastoral Council Minutes

October 23, 2017

Members Present: Fr. Ken Knippel – Pastor, Fr. Nathaniel Miniatt – Associate Pastor, Brian Schloemer - Trustee Treasurer, Robert Scott – Trustee Secretary, Kim Prudlow – Chair, Betsy Wellenstein – Vice Chair, Karen Coon – Secretary , Renee Larson – Stewardship Liaison, JoAnne Cekanor – School Committee Liaison, Judy Kile – Formation Committee Liaison, Duane McAllister – Worship Committee Liaison & Finance Council Rep.

Guests: Deacon Aaron Laskiewicz, St. Francis de Sales seminarian & Dan Demeter, Principal, St. John Vianney School

Excused Members: Kathy Barutha – Human Concerns Liaison and Archdiocesan Rep., Doug Wildes – Finance Council Rep.

Call to Order: The St. John Vianney (SJV) Pastoral Council (PC) meeting was opened at 6:35 p.m.

Staff Report: Dan Demeter reported on current issues in the school.

Challenges: Working to improve the overall school culture and climate. Still fighting a battle about certain values, e.g., exclusion of peers. The staff and students need to adjust to change in individualism and the impact of social media on social interactions. The new virtue based disciplinary program adopted last year gets at the root of the reasons for bullying/exclusion by using Catholic virtues as the basis for discussion of the issues existing in the school. The school is in year 2 of this program, and its success will be better assessed after 3 or 4 years of the program's use.

Enrollment – K4 at max capacity, total enrollment for the whole school is at 369 this year. That number is similar to enrollment numbers for the last couple years. The hope is that the new K4 classrooms will make families feel more a part of the school and a part of the school families.

New Science Curriculum – Because of new national standards which require a stronger focus on inquiry, investigation, collaboration and problem solving skills, and less emphasis on presenting facts in isolation, school has revamped the science curriculum. They have purchased a new Houghton Mifflin Harcourt series called *Dimensions*. The series has many more hands-on activities, experiments, and labs. The focus is on learning through trial and error, creating claims and defending those claims with evidence. This will promote skills that students will use later in life. Already teachers see more conversations among the students about the “why” of what works and what doesn't.

2017 Fall MAPs Scores – MAPs can indicate the school's 'projected proficiency' on the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Forward Exam is a relatively new standardized test given each spring in the Wisconsin public schools to gauge mastery of the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Below are the results that demonstrate how SJV students' “projected proficiency” compares to students in the Elmbrook Schools and the rest of the state.

- **SJV ELA** (English Language Assessment) – 76% Proficient or Advanced
- **Elmbrook ELA** – 64% Proficient or Advanced
- **State ELA** – 42% Proficient or Advanced
- **SJV Math** – 77% Proficient or Advanced
- **Elmbrook Math** – 61% Proficient or Advanced
- **State Math** – 41% Proficient or Advanced

Chair's Report: Video Announcements at Church – St. Eugene's was shown as an example of what Fr. Ken would like to do here with announcements. Kim sought production information from St. Eugene's and forwarded that information to Tech department at the school to see what we already have and what we may need to purchase in order to accomplish this. Father would like to look into doing this on the screens in the church before each Mass. Creates a more consistent message than what we have when we ask the priests and visiting priests to read announcements each week. Pastoral Council thinks it is a good idea and that it should be pursued further but needs to first be addressed through Worship Committee and the Liturgy/Worship Office. Duane will take the idea to Worship Committee at the next Common Leadership meeting on November 20th.

Vice Chair's Report: Strategic reports from Committees still being gathered. October 27, 2017 is the deadline. The final compilation of all the strategic plans should be ready for distribution at the November 20, 2017 Common Leadership meeting.

Pastor's Report: Archbishop ListECKI has accepted Father Ken's letter of retirement. Father's retirement will be effective on June 30, 2018.

Doors to Our Faith: Every hope is that we are to be done with the reconstruction of the Narthex by Christmas, and in the 4K rooms by early November. Terrazzo floor in the school entrance has turned out even better than hoped.

Catholic Stewardship Appeal – SJV met its appeal goal of \$200,000.00. That goal was met with only 17 ½% participation by parish members.

Mass Count: Down over the last 9 years. Question is whether we should consider changing to just 4 masses each weekend. Question is whether we could do with masses at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Would have to be those times so as to allow for the Family Faith Formation sessions to occur between the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. masses. Duane will take the issue to Worship Committee for further analysis and consideration of the possible ramifications.

Book for Christmas distribution suggestion from Duane: *Your Money Counts (Catholic Edition)* – Original Author, Howard Dayton, Catholic edition created by Jon & Evelyn Bean from Compass Catholic. The book provides good, practical advice on all things Stewardship. The teachings incorporate scripture references as the basis for their positions. Designed to be read on your own, or as a study group. It does a good job of explaining the real cost of debt and how it affects a parish as well as personally and in your family. Focuses on the idea that "everything belongs to God" in the beginning, and then personalizes the idea. Duane will look into ordering these books this week and will check with Angela on the count needed for the parish.

PC Liaison Reports:

Judy – Formation: They plan to discuss their strategic plan at every meeting to keep a focus on what the committee wants to accomplish in this year. There may be a slight problem in the communications to Formation students and their families in that some of the Catholic school families may not receive some of the communications. Problem has been addressed.

Betsy for Kathy (Human Concerns) – At the 9/11/17 meeting, the committee discussed their strategic plan, assigned committee liaisons to each of the 33 ministries under the human concerns umbrella, and discussed two new initiatives. The first possible initiative is a Parish Nurse Ministry. The second possible initiative would be to explore and expand upon ways that our parish could support Pope Francis' "Share the Journey" campaign. Many of the ideas discussed in relation to this initiative

centered on our twinning relationship with Prince of Peace Parish. John Thompson is to connect with them to discuss ways that our parish could assist them with efforts that they have planned or areas where we can best support their ideas.

JoAnne – School – Other than what Dan reported earlier in the meeting, the Long Range Planning subcommittee is working on the alumni database for the 60th anniversary of the school.

Duane – Finance – Nothing new to report from our last meeting.

Renee/Fr. Miniatt – Stewardship – Stewardship renewal documents will be mailed out soon. The weekend of November 11/12 is Stewardship Renewal weekend, and the weekend of November 4/5 will have witness talks.

New Business: None.

Next meeting: Common Leadership Night (no PC that night) on November 20, 2017, beginning in the Church at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ended 8:25 p.m.