

St. Helen Board Meeting

10-7-20

Principal Vance, Fr. Ed, Staci Slattery, Suzanne Belinson, Jordan Kerger, Patrick Skertich, Tom Dwyer, Chris Albu, Chris O'Neil, Tim Bopp, Tim Liston, Chris Sarakitis, Maria Ippolito, Shannon Haffey Castelli (guest)

Healthy and Safety Committee Report: Shannon Haffey Castelli

- Health and safety committee established in summer of 2020- led by PRINCIPAL VANCE, DEACON TOM, SHANNON HAFHEY CASTELLI, FR. ED,
 - o Framework was handed down from AOC but team determined how to implement for St. Helen community
 - o Met throughout the summer to determine how to manage various areas in implementation
 - o Opportunities for virtual and in person- if we have X number of in person what are the needs of school
 - Cohort model, physical distancing, virus reporting, etc.
 - o “Arch plan was the anchor but we made it our own”
 - o Augusta Blvd being main street was an issue
 - o Delivered a Re-opening Plan/report on Aug 10 which has been revisited several times since
 - o Classroom and buildings
 - Many volunteers helped to set up classrooms, clear clutter, deep cleaning of building, created traffic flow patterns, where to stand
 - Nap times, shared snacks, early release for preschool students
 - Cut options for aftercare
 - o Arrival and Dismissal
 - Continued conversation around how to improve this
 - Symptom check at arrival and temp check
 - o Mask wearing compliance is going well

Key Questions:

- o What is appropriate incident reporting if something is noticed-how can privacy be honored?
- o What will happen during cold and flu season- runny nose, allergies etc? What will winter procedures look like? Staff outside in cold, thermometers and ambient temps, extra clothes for warmth but may present challenges with germs
- o How can we continue to keep St Helen in school through next season?
- o Emerging Science- how will that impact our decisions and protocols?
- o Could moms/dads help at recess or the morning? Give teachers a break...
 - teachers breaks are limited w new protocols – who else could help?

- Can we be creative w entrances during cold months? Gym door, courtyard, front entry, certain areas are big enough that they could distance while waiting for temp checks?

- Add to agenda to look into tents and canopies

○ **Action Items:**

- *Consider and develop cold weather and winter month options for school*
- *Review Arch guidelines as they are released*
- *Can we work as a community to help give teachers breaks?*
- *Next steps for keeping St. Helen open*
- *Promote Covid testing opportunities throughout the city*
- *Promote Flu Vaccine*

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Financial Report - Tom Dwyer and Jordan Kerger

- Moving forward Tom to work with Jordan to collaborate on financial reports. Goal to go over highlights for each meeting.
- Review of previous Fiscal Year
- *Plan next meeting to present with Jordan*

BOSH Report - Staci Slattery

- 60 new chrome books being ordered 1:1 in Chromebooks from 3rd grade and up-promoting program for students to take ownership of their tech and keep their computer each year- updated in summer etc
- Bosh spearheading fundraising to replace Christmas fair for teacher appreciation funding
- Gym supplies ordered for Coach R
- In holding pattern for purchases because of COVID
- Report of current funds:
- Looking into some version of BOSH Ball
- Possible 5k run next year- if vaccine is widely available
- How can we streamline teacher \$\$ - keep connection to funding for teachers identified by parents as well as funding for all teachers
- How can we build community in these challenging times?
- "Teachers are digging deep every day- and working hard with a smile on their face and song in their heart"
- Students are happy and teachers are doing amazing things
- Action Items:
- *Fundraise for teacher funds*
- *BOSH Ball TBD*
- *Continue to identify ways to build community in these challenging times*

Dad's Club Report - Chris Albu

- Cleanup projects

- All events canceled
- White Sox tailgate June 2021

Action Items:

- *Chris to share list of sponsors with Principal Vance*

Parent's Club Report - Maria Ippolito/ Suzanne Belinson

- Record attendance b/c on zoom- but still hearing from parents that start time/time of day is an issue
- How can we continue to build community and remain connected?
- Fundraise for teachers
- Grandparents are an opportunity for fundraising and time/talents
- We are a neighborhood school- and all are starving for connections what can we do?
- How can we think creatively about community connection- expand it
- What will Christmas craft fair look like? Art auction etc?
- Idea to do Christmas tree lighting- socially distanced and outside
- Action Items:
 - o *Can we engage grandparents?*
 - o *How to foster community?*
 - o *Fundraise for teachers what will Christmas craft fair look like?*

Principal's Report - Dana Vance

- Enrollment - in person + remote--- 318
 - most attrition at EC (80/100)

50 remote learners

4 Prek classrooms and 3 kinder classrooms

● Tech developments

- seesaw and google classrooms being used throughout and with in-person as well as e-learners just in case we need to go remote
- ESSER funds- Ed puzzle, brain pop, Newsela etc- can use in home and remotely- 40 new ipads will not leave the building- allows Mr. John to bring iPads to classrooms- easy to sanitize
 - Virtual Study Hall for older students – building community for at home learners

● PLCs- **Professional Learning Communities**- just starting towards this process- shared leadership- grade level teams with teacher leaders at each section

Data driven decision making

● Staff changes- had to move people around but only 1 new hire, 1 aide floats and allows teachers to work with remote learners

-While Holy Trinity Math is not happening, students are participating from St. Helen – following curriculum and program/material

● Upcoming events/dates

Amazon wish list is going well- Parent Ambassadors promoted it—will keep being updated

Weekly liturgies- classes signing up, 3rd graders will make first communion in November

● Marketing - raffle, auction, carnival replacement event

- Is there a way to survey teachers about how things are going confidentially? No official survey- but team leaders from PLC are tool to get information
- Something to consider
- Counselor in the building: provide supports for students and teachers

Action Items:

- *Look into survey opportunities for teachers*
- *Need to find ways to make up for carnival etc- operating funding*
- *Take list of previous carnival sponsors and ask them for support*
 - *Can we raise \$ without having the event just by asking*
- *Still planning for Christmas Raffle- will accept credit cards for the raffle*
- *Can we do a giant Christmas Tree lighting? Event*

New roles + structure - Suzanne Belinson

Working to align the board with guidelines of the Archdiocese

Board size needs to be 8-10

Everyone on board needs clear role and responsibilities

No members at large

Must post agendas and meeting minutes

Action Items:

- Create a marketing subcommittee until part time marketing person can be part of the school budget
 - Patrick Skertich and Erica Sarakitis will head that committee
- Work with alumni who are on board- need to define that group and their roles
 - Create an alumni association with goal of community building and fundraising
 - Suzanne to help build bridge with alums
 - Officer roles:
 - Co-Chairs- Suzanne Belinson and Chris O'Neil
 - Secretary- Maria Ippolito
 - Treasurer: Jordan Kerger
 - Bosh Rep: Staci Slattery
 - Dad's Club Rep: Chris Albu
 - Marketing Rep: Patrick Skertich
 - Parish Council- Chris Sarakitis
 - Big Shoulders Fund Rep: Tim Liston

- Holy Trinity Rep/Community Member: Tim Bopp
- Alumni Rep: TBD

Next meeting: Wednesday December 2 4:30pm