

MIS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 17 2018

Opening Prayer 6:30

Attendees: Fr. Michael Forge, Jenny Long, Linda Coffin, Steven Bristow, Alan Bergin, Pat Gasper, Robert Griffin, Rafael Jimenez, Pamela Krakosky, Matt Brandt, Sean McIntyre, Mike Murray, Fr. Giuseppe Spoto, Kim Speirs, Patti Dimaano Stenson, Ashley Lange .

Approve May meeting minutes: Mike Murray motion to approve; Seam McIntyre seconds

Pastor's Report – Fr. Forge

- Three Sisters with of the Nashville Dominicans, including the Prioress General St. Anna Grace Keenan, Bishop Burns, Bishop Kelly and Fr. Forge met for 45 minutes at the Pastoral Center on August 30.
- Patti gave a tour of the school to the Sisters with Fr. Michael and then they had a lunch in the Church office.
- Two of the sisters (Sister Anna Grace had to return to Nashville) met with Fr. Michael, Linda Coffin, Pat Gasper, Pam Krakosky and Sean McIntyre in Linda's office The Sisters commented that MIS is a 'really good community and we can feel it.' They also commented they would not come in and immediately dismiss teachers; they are coming to improve the culture, not change it.
- Fr. Michael explained that they were interested in MIS because there are already Dominican sisters of their order in Dallas (UD) - their charism is community – so they want to grow in Dallas.
- The Sisters had dinner at the rectory with Michael, Fr. Guisepe, Bishop Kelly, Dr. Jonathan Sanford, the Provost of the University of Dallas, and his wife Rebecca.
- Dr. Sanford gave them a tour of potential living quarters at the University of Dallas as well as a tour of a large home as potential temporary housing.
- Rent of any living facility will be part of their compensation package.
- A council of four Sisters will make a final decision in September of whether they will come to MIS. Two of them will be sisters who visited MIS.
- Dallas Production Company CGI is making a video of the school and parish and are currently filming.
- Sunday Mass times have changed.
- There will be after Mass community building throughout September consisting of donuts, coffee, etc.
- Mary Immaculate hosted the Francophone Afrikaaner Charismatic Convention.

- Cardinal Raymond Burke is celebrating a 5:30 pm All Souls Day Mass. It will be preceded by a 3:30 talk and procession.
- Fr. Forge is no longer Dean of North Central Deanery but has been re-appointed to the Diocesan Presbyteral Council
- There was a financial review with the parish council of the Church and school resulting in three tweaks/recommendations of parish financial processes. None for the school.
- Fr. Michael is helping Bp. Kelly mentor two pastoral administrators.
- The Fall festival will be on Saturday only and with less of a carnival feel and more of a festival feel.

Principals Report – Linda Coffin

- The School will present a three week seminar on the Love & Logic parenting method
- Bill, Linda and Paula met with Farmers Branch on emergency response protocol.
- Ministry Conference for AC was cancelled.
- The new Math textbooks are not being well received by teachers or faculty. Sadlier is sending a representative to work on some solutions.

PTC Board – Jenny Long

- 297 students and 194 families attended the back to school preparation meeting.
- Plans are being made to streamline back to school events – consensus is that there are too many.
- There is currently \$38,000 in PTC checking account.
- PTC added VP elect position which was filled by Nicole Mahaffey.
- Auction committee working on a list for potential honorary chairs.

Financial Report – Pamela Krakosky

- Enrollment is 450 – budgeted for 458
- Cost of True Touch pad is hitting budget this year – wasn't supposed to.
- Tuition and discount is off because SMART is not syncing with QuickBooks.
- \$9,300 cost to educate a student at MIS in 2017-2018.

Admission Report - Patti Damiano

- DFW Private School preview
- Parish Pulpit Push was presented very well and generated a great response.
- We have a strong focus on preschools as feeders, especially St. Ann's, St Catherine's, Angel Creek and Christ for Kids. Patti has formed strong relationships with those school directors.

- MIS open house will be held on Sept 25.

Development/Communications Report – Kim Speirs

- Kim is gearing up for North Texas Giving Day on September 20 – big effort with lots of social media promotion, inter-class competition, etc.
- Recommendation to not start annual appeal the first week of school. Also, make clear annual appeal does not end on NTX Giving day.
- Suggestions to create annual appeal deadline and restore class captains.

Parent engagement - Susan Ratz-Thomas

- Every council member must be safe-environment cleared – a few of us currently are not.

New Items: Open discussion led by Pat Gasper on a robust, holistic approach to making up our 90 student enrollment deficit.

- With the addition of the Sisters running the school our offering will be even stronger, but if (large) families cannot afford the tuition the quality of the school will not be enough alone to significantly increase enrollment.
- No local Catholic schools give discount to three child families.
- Can we do a flat rate? No other school does that – resolution to look at it.
- MIS has very competitive tuition to begin with.
- We must market and brand competitive tuition, family discount, etc. because academic/religious quality alone is not a factor in families choosing MIS.
- Fr. Michael stated that Marketing, Administration and Admissions are the three prongs that must be looked at when increasing enrollment.
- Agreement to form a sub-committee to develop a strategic plan for increasing enrollment. Matt Brandt will chair.

Closing Prayer