

Fairfield-Hocking Catholic Schools Executive Committee
September 29, 2011 Revised

Minutes (APPROVED)

Attendance: Msgr. Dunn, Erin Schornack, Al Klinger, Fr. Kessler, Pam Eltringham, Kristin Gentile, Kent Kerns, Karen Wolfe, Fr. Eilerman, Carlton Rider, John McGraw, Kellie Boyden, Fr. Gideon, Kim Kirchgessner, James Bryant, Fr. Walter, Cynthia Goss, Sean Kenney, John Snider, Brian Shonk, Jeanette Kam

Absent: Fr. Reade

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's by Msgr. Dunn with prayer led by Fr. Gideon. The minutes of August 31, 2011 were approved as written. Msgr. Dunn welcomed John McGraw as St. Mary's representative to the EC replacing John Baughman.

Finance Committee Report – John Snider reviewed the data – enrollment, staffing, baptisms, enrollment projection, deanery primary projection.

- Deanery Primary Enrollment (K-1-2) shows a decrease of 31% since 2001.
- Infant baptismal data shows future class sizes at 50% of baptisms or 85.
- Non-Catholic (50% capture rate) were included as 19% in projections.

Assumptions:

- 15% of Non-Catholics in schools – New students who are not baptized in FH is a loss therefore it is assumed equal.
- Number of churches will stay the same.
- Three parish schools will operate at a loss (supported by parish subsidy).
- As long as the parishes can fund the elementary schools, class size is not a problem in elementary schools.

Conclusion: St. Mary's enrollment significantly affects the future of Fisher. If Fisher enrolls all the students currently at a grade level, at some year Fisher would enroll only 100 plus 33.

Recommendation: Any recommendation must take the trend line into consideration and ensure that it is financially feasible K-12. He stated that he believes that it is not sensible to add a grade at any school.

Question: How can parish subsidy to FCHS be increased? How can funding be increased?

NOTE: In response to this question, Jeanette Kam e-mailed diocesan Business Policies for Secondary Schools and current out-lying Catholic schools feeder parish subsidies to Finance Sub-committee members, all pastors and Sean Kenney. These policies provide a procedure for Fisher CHS to request a higher subsidy from the pastors. Parish subsidy to Fisher is not a topic of discussion for the FHCSEC.

- 3130.0, Participating Membership in a Parish
- 3240.2, Parish Tuition for Diocesan Secondary Schools
- 3240.25, Parish Tuition Recognition
- 3344.3, Capital Repair/Expansion

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Three possible scenarios for elementary and secondary school structure were discussed. These discussions focused on grade placement of students, movement of students from school to school, projected additional costs, availability of space and other resources, etc.

Sean suggested a possible model that would provide time for the three elementary schools and the high schools to collaborate together to address school structure, external and internal issues and increased marketing. No conclusions on future school structure were reached.

Due to the length of the discussion on the scenarios, the other committee reports were held for the next meeting.

An additional Saturday, October 15 meeting was scheduled at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mark as a formal meeting to continue the important discussion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Oct. 27 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark. A meeting on Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary is scheduled. The public meeting and the December meeting dates were not set.

The meeting ended with a prayer about 9:15.