

Parish Council Meeting

4.20.21

Present: Joanne Browarsky, Michela Buccini, Donna Griffith, Brother Paul Hoffman, Phil Louis, John Mitchell, Father Mike Nartker, Joe Nurre, Brother Bob Politi, Mary Ragland, Lawrence Rentz, Tori Vogelgesang, and Don Yelton

I. Welcome Potential New Members

- a. John Mitchell and Lawrence Rentz joined the meeting today to see if they are interested in joining Parish Pastoral Council

II. Update on Purcell Marian Athletic Field (Andy Farfsing)

- a. Confirmed architectural firm with Diocesan approval
- b. Next steps:
 - i. Taking soil samples which will create large holes in the ground
 - ii. They are in the phase of putting together the plan of what they can and cannot do and then with that what is the facility going to look like and what can it house.
 - iii. Every step needs to be fully funded before each step can take place
 1. About a 5 million dollar projected
 2. Raised and pledged 3.1 million since December
- c. Goals
 - i. Would like for the field to look like it belongs in the neighborhood
 - ii. House multiple sports- including girls softball, lacrosse, football, soccer, and others.
 - iii. Keep the size of the field proportionate to the school.
- d. Questions/Comments
 - i. Impact on parking:
 1. Currently 230 parking spaces. The field would take away approximately 32 spaces.
 2. Potential to charge for parking.
 - ii. Impact on people entering and exiting the parking lot:
 1. The field will take away from the entrance that is closest to the field.
 2. There is already a concern regarding safety and the flow of traffic.
 3. There will be a new traffic pattern that needs to be explored.
 - iii. Scheduling for field and parish:
 1. Saturdays/weddings: Andy said that sporting events will conclude by noon on Saturdays
 2. Fridays will mostly be varsity football games and there will be five home games.
 - a. Purcell Marian is committed to blocking off a portion of the parking lot for people coming in for the rehearsal.
 3. DeSales would like to create a formal/written communication dialogue regarding scheduling.

III. HELP Update (Bob Miller and Wilson Willard)

- a. The HELP program is seeking interested individuals from SFDS parish that might be interested in serving on the HELP Advisory Board. If interested email HELP at helpprogramcincinnati@outlook.com
- b. See HELP Summary on page 3

IV. DeSales School Report (Joanne Browarsky)

- a. Third Trimester Interim Reports will be mailed to families tomorrow! Two related items to note –
 - i. There was an observable positive shift in student progress from the end of 2nd trimester in both missing work and scholars meeting remote expectations. I believe this can be attributed to our daily Zoom check-ins I spoke of last month. As we anticipated, increased facetime with the classroom teacher (albeit, more lift on their part) had a positive impact.
 - ii. Dragon Summer Academy will return this summer - it will be our fifth summer offering an in-house summer school (last summer was remote) - 4 additional weeks of instruction in the month of June, from 9-noon, - in house, taught by our own faculty, for our own students.

Funding is made possible through a combination of utilizing title one extended learning funds and applying for a CISE summer learning Grant.

- b. As we look ahead to the end of the school year, we are trying to incorporate some positive school culture pieces as well (primary focus on academics, but the scholars need some fun to look forward to as well!) Two interesting items of note
 - i. We will launch our inaugural “Dragon Week” next week, the week of April 26 - 30. Built around Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park virtual performance “Dragons Love Tacos” (A NY Times Best Seller and our school mascot:-) The week will include tacos on the lunch menu, of course, Ms. Browarsky re-reading Dragons Love Tacos to classes by teacher request; Brother Bob is teaching them the “Dragons Love Tacos” song; special project in art class and Mrs. Paytes is going to hopefully decorate the cafeteria to look like a Dragon's lair, among other things...
 - ii. Staff has committed to doing two Dragons Olympics (Field Day) in May, one for each cohort; Phil has graciously agreed to grill hot dogs for the scholars both days. I am meeting with our PE teacher, AP and our floor captains tomorrow to begin to discuss preliminary logistics how we can make that a safe, fun experience for all.
- c. Classroom teachers are beginning to plan for Spring MAP testing, which includes meeting with individual scholars to set both a growth goal (as established by NWEA MAP) and a stretch goal, so scholars are ending the year Achieving Excellence and also be an active participant in that process. Grade level teams will also discuss incentives for scholars who meet or exceed their growth goals, and how this will be celebrated both in the classroom and throughout the building. Celebrating scholar success as you know is a big piece of our school culture as well. (and there will be lots of opportunities to do so in the month ahead!)

V. Calvary Cemetery (Donna Griffith)

- a. Project items continue to move along.
- b. The parish is encouraged to walk through the cemetery- it is beautiful and there are amazing old grave markers. It is a piece of history in our city.

VI. Finance Committee (Don Yelton)

- a. Has not met since the last PPC meeting. Next one is scheduled for May 6.
- b. Steve Robertson head of the finance committee resigned- looking for someone to step in to chair the finance committee.
- c. Another member stepped down as well. Looking to fill this role as well.

VII. Pastoral Team Report (Brother Paul Hoffman)

- a. Successful Holy Week- very well attended during the time of COVID
- b. We have now gone back to two masses. Attendance:
 - i. April 4: 298
 - ii. April 11: 152
 - iii. April 18: 164
- c. Thank you to everyone who filled out the mass preference survey-there were over 100 responses
- d. Attendance has gone down for the Wednesday masses- but there is still a group in attendance and that mass will remain available
- e. Received PPP Loan forgiveness
- f. Wedding Bookings have gone up
 - i. For 2021, we currently have 4 June weekends, 5 July, 3 August and 4 September weekends
 - ii. 2022: Already receiving requests



St. Francis DeSales Parish Council Update

April 20, 2021

2020/2021 to date Summary

- Completed Fall Upward to work class and just started next class at SVDP.
- Graduates matched with mentors
- Transportation costs ~\$4500/Month; Generating over \$1 Million in annual wages.
- Relaunched DISMAS task force with Archdiocese and conducted virtual meetings.
- Pursued “transportation independent” goal.
 - 14 licensed
 - 6 taught to drive
 - 6 vehicles acquired.
- Financial stability
 - DeSales contribution greatly appreciated. (Parish and parishioners)
 - Starting up E4:28 Staffing Agency - long term goal is self-funding.
 - Continued “adopt a month” fundraiser.
 - Held VIRTUAL Breakfast DISMAS and fundraiser.
 - Positive cash flow for the year so far.
- Conducted outside organization assessment and implementing renewal.
 - Strategic Plan being renewed to guide goal setting
 - Continuing work on sustainability plan and systems documentation.
 - Improved database and metrics – results dashboard in place

2020/2021 Plans

- Expand Upward to Work class offerings – more, smaller and industry targeted classes.
- E4:28 Staffing growth toward self-funding by end of this FY. (7/22)
- Seeking extension of National Catholic Bishop’s Grant.
- Continued focus on the Rising Stage of development process to move to career jobs.
- Staff Expansion
 - Increase Business Manager hours and span E4:28 and HELP
 - Keep current AmeriCorps/VISTA position with expanded responsibilities
 - Intern position for HELP member if we get Archdiocese funding support.

HELP thanks you for your tremendous support over the past 10 years. Without the funding provided when Brother Mike retired HELP could not have survived. HELP has evolved over the past year; we have opened our own Staffing agency to support the program and end our reliance on grant funding. CCHD support is being replaced with E4:28 Staffing “profits.” This first year, that is not sufficient to replace all other funding sources. But in the coming years we project that HELP will be able to operate primarily on E4:28 support. Donations will still be solicited, some small grants sought, but mainly for specific projects and to offset and continue the free transportation provided by HELP. Of course, donated cars will also continue to be accepted.

Empowerment - not Entitlement!