

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
**HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

SPRING Hands MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 10, 2018, 7:00 pm



**Home and School Report: Melissa Denson**

Good evening. I am Melissa Denson and I've been serving as your President of Home and School this year. I want to welcome you all to tonight's meeting. We're going to begin this evening's meeting with a brief prayer that I'd like to read....

This evening is about closing our school year, and first and foremost, I want to say a huge thanks to all of you. Home and School is an organization made up of parents who are dedicated to serving our students and teachers on a daily basis, ensuring everyone has what they need to make the year a success. We have many committees, and if you are serving as a committee chair, I'd like you to stand so we can recognize your hard work and say thanks (Applause). I'd also like to thank Heather Vaca-Guzman and her Hospitality Committee for the food tonight, as well as throughout the entire year. In addition to our committee chairs, we have numerous volunteers who help make sure things go smoothly. We simply could not support the school effectively without the support of our parents. As many of you are aware, we are one of the last schools in the diocese to not have a mandatory volunteer policy, and that is because you continually step up to the plate to help in whatever way you are able. We are so, so grateful.

This has been a very busy year, and in light of that, I'm going to keep my remarks as brief as possible so Mrs. Rose can bring us up to speed on the many things that have happened.

As part of Old Business, I'd like to give a few highlights of what we did this year (and every year)...

- Home and School supports the school daily through our library and cafeteria volunteer programs.
- We support the school spiritually with our Eucharistic Adoration Committee.
- We provide special programming for our students by running Health Awareness Week and Catholic Schools Week.
- We support our teachers through the Teacher Appreciation Committee.
- We provide things like clinic supplies and school planners for the students.
- We support the school financially by through our Fundraising Committee, our Box Tops, and our Used Uniform sales. We always contribute any funds raised over our Operating Budget back to the school. This year, thanks to your support, we were able to give \$5,400 to the school for the cafeteria online purchasing program. We were thrilled to be a part of bringing this to our school, because we know it's what our parents wanted.

- Our Booster Club, headed by Beth Reichard, supports all things athletic, and we are so grateful for her and her team's leadership.
- We do some things that are just plain fun, like holding our Christmas Ornament Contest and hosting an annual Talent Show.

#### In new business

- I've been sending out email newsletters highlighting Home and School news this year. There will be one more newsletter coming, so look out in your inboxes for that. We will be highlighting Old Business and making some announcements via that newsletter.
- We will once again be utilizing a Google form for our annual Hands Volunteer Survey. This summer, when you see that in your inbox, please take a moment to fill it out and let our committee chairs know where you would like to volunteer. We will also be asking for some feedback, so this is an opportunity to have your voice heard.
- Finally, we have some vacancies on the Home and School Extended Board and I'd like to take this opportunity to mention those.
  - Health Awareness Week Chairperson - this committee is looking for a new chairperson. I would like to say that there is already a great framework in place for running this week thanks to the strong leadership provided by former chair Monique O'Mara. Also, there is still a committee of volunteers willing to help you, however several of these individuals already hold other leadership positions, so we need a new person to take the helm.
  - Catholic Schools Week - this committee is looking for a co-chair. The current chairperson, Allison Mall, will be returning, and this committee also has a wonderful pool of volunteers. But Allison would like a partner to help her lead in running this very rewarding week.
  - Hospitality Co-Chair
  - Finally, we are in need of a Booster Committee Treasurer. Mrs. Blumenstock has graciously filled in for us as we've searched for someone, but we are still searching. If you have a knack for finances and bookkeeping, please inquire more about this position. It is not necessary to have a child on an athletic team to help our Booster Committee. They do support our athletic teams, but they also help with so much more, such as purchasing equipment for our PE programs and playground improvements, just to name a few.

With this, I'd like to hand it over to Mrs. Rose, who has several big things to discuss. Then I will have a few closing remarks once she's done...

#### **School Update: Rhonda Rose**

Mrs. Rose introduced Mrs. Robin Fecitt as our new principal.

She also spoke briefly about the school's Iowa test scores. The school met or exceeded diocesan and state averages in almost all areas. Third grade math, social studies, and science scores exceeded the diocesan averages by 10 points. Fifth grade math scores were 12 points over the diocesan average. Seventh grade exceeded state and diocesan averages by 9-14 points. Finally, the subset of eighth grade students who have been at St. Joe's since kindergarten did phenomenally. For the 2018-2019 school year, the school will be switching to the Terranova test, which will provide more comprehensive data to teachers.

Regarding accreditation, Mrs. Rose stated that the committee was very complimentary of our school, commending us for our Catholic identity and affirming our academic program and teachers. The accreditation team's review yielded three goals for our school and teachers:

- Learn to work better in professional learning communities
- Work on curriculum alignment, starting with vocabulary
- Create a written management plan for recruiting and retention

In addition, the school will be reviewing math and science textbooks over the summer.

Finally, Mrs. Rose announced the following staff changes for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Mrs. Terrill will be taking over the Star Scholars and STEM programs.
- Mrs. Sweat will be returning to fill the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> position.
- Mrs. Wilson will be leaving to teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Assumption, creating an opening for a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> science teacher.

## **Dedication of the Rhonda Rose Library**

Opening Song – Ms. Adkison & choir; “For Good”

Opening Prayer – Superintendent Mr. Scott Conway

Scripture Reading – Connor Murphy or Morgan Kennedy

Speech – Theresa Twisdale

Dedication – Father Sebastian

Explanation of Gift – Melissa Denson

Presentation – Katie Rose

Closing Song – Ms. Adkison & choir