

Mission Statement

The mission of Holy Spirit Catholic School is to provide a welcoming environment where students live the Gospel message, exhibit high academic achievement, and provide service to the community.

**Holy Spirit Catholic School Minutes of the School Board
Meeting of Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

Present: Gretchen Kinghorn (Chairman), Barbara Siciliano (Secretary), Karianne Earnest (Principal), Brian Hinz (PTC Rep), Sandra Montez Florez, Marcia Ney, Luis Carrillo, Sarah Delilo.

Pastoral Representative: Deacon Scott Pearhill^[1]_[SEP]

Karianne called the meeting to order with a prayer at 06:00 o'clock pm. Some members arrived late due to Christmas services.

Minutes: There were no minutes for the November 9 meeting as it took place at a restaurant and no minutes for the November 16 executive session as it was to hold a free flowing discussion on the state of the school.

Pastoral Report: There was no pastoral report as Deacon Scott and all the Eastern Idaho priests were attending the Christmas reconciliation service.

Guests: There were no guests.

PTC Report: There were no updates to the PTC activities other than a continuation of fundraising programs and progress report on the HSCS Auction fundraiser to be held in 2023. As the school was closing that week, most families and meetings were wrapping up for the Christmas holidays.

Principal's Report/State of the School: Karianne noted that she and Father Henry appreciated the input on the new mission statement for the school and that they would more than likely go with the first option (see email). The Principal noted that she has succeeded in acquiring a marketing intern from ISU, Crystal

Castillo, who will be able to move along the marketing and advertising plans for HSCS. She would be the liaison with Jim who has volunteered his professional publicity consultancy to HSCS. Jim's efforts have stalled a bit but Crystal will be able to invigorate the outreach plan to widen the marketing of the school in efforts to increase the student body.

With great regret (and after much internal discussion over the last several months), Karianne confirmed that HSCS will be forced to close the middle school due to a lack of students and financial support from the community. She circulated a letter from Fr. Henry, which would be sent to parents to announce the closure of grades six through eight as well as a plea for the community to unite around funding, sustaining, and advancing the elementary school. It was agreed the school needs to focus on its strengths and find its niche in the Pocatello community. Karianne will be working toward advancing the schools emphasis on the creative arts, as this is a gap in the Pocatello elementary offering. Karianne will also be discontinuing the early childcare but advancing the pre-K in support of the school.

Members discussed the rolling out of this disappointing news to our close-knit parent community as well as how to support the teachers during this challenging transition. Karianne introduced one suggestion emanating from some teachers as to how to avoid the combining of class levels in grades 2-5, something to which the parents have been vocally opposed. This would require compartmentalization of subjects but preserves unified one-grade level homerooms. It was noted that these changes would need to be fully vetted with teachers for their buy-in as well as socialized with parents.

Karianne noted that on the positive side they would be quickly spending the large chunk of federal funds that were awarded (tied to COVID). This funding is fenced for only COVID related purposes but does allow for some new technology in the classroom as well as classroom and outdoor furniture.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

Many of the ongoing annual fundraisers are moving forward. The Kickoff of the HSCS 365 fundraiser has begun and announcements/solicitations for members of the parish to choose a date in the year to contribute to the school would be made at the January 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th masses. Volunteers from the board were requested.

Other possible fundraising ideas were further discussed such as identifying a list of potential donors/alumni and making calls from the board. Karianne also welcomed support for this suggestion.

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Deacon Scott offered the closing prayer remembering St. John of the Cross and asking for his blessing at 09:00 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday January 11th, 2023, 6pm at the School