

## **Mission Statement**

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

### **Holy Spirit Catholic School Minutes of the School Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 19, 2021**

**Present:** Karianne Earnest (Principal), Brian Hinz, Marcia Ney, Barbara Siciliano.

**Pastoral Representative:** Deacon Scott Pearhill

**The meeting was called to order with a prayer by Karianne Earnest at 7:09pm**

**Minutes:** The approval of the minutes was delayed.

**Pastoral Report:** Deacon Scott provided an update, noting that Bishop Peter Christensen will be in Pocatello on Monday 24 January for the RCIA candidates and will also be holding a meeting on the Church theme of Synodality with the parish committee. He noted that the Afghan refugees, who are US allies and who will be settled in Pocatello will be needing welcome kits (food and initial supplies) which we will be soliciting in coming masses. The Parish Council is also beginning the process of changing the HSCC vision and mission statement, which hasn't been changed in decades, and will be involving the Parish, the school and others in the update. The Parish Council has engaged Bruce A. in creating the new mission/vision statement, which reflects HSCC as it is today.

**There were no guests.**

**PTC Report:** Karianne offered that PTC meetings have been very productive and efficient of late. The PTC will be helping with Catholic Schools week, the 2 February cookies and popcorn

at the school, and are supporting the 24 February field trip to the Children's Museum and the 28 February Staff Retreat. They have come up with a unique way to attract parental attendance at PTC by offering a ticket for their children to choose a "Free Dress" day when they attend. This has proven very popular.

**Principal Report:** Karianne reported the state of the school as follows; 135 students currently enrolled. They have scheduled a tour tomorrow for a new pre-K student. The school's service projects have been well advertised and on TV. The projects were, the collection of PJs for the poor, gift cards for our Afghan friends who have been moved to Pocatello, working at St. Vincent de Paul, and other promotions of the virtue of doing good each month. Karianne has found Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum which has been created by the National Dominican Sisters which is uniquely Catholic and teaches virtue-based lessons modeled after the Saints lives. This will be phased in over time into the curriculum for all students. Plans and preparations are going full force for the annual HSCS Auction, which will take place this year at Courtesy Ford Conference hall. The Auction has two Chairs, Kimberly Rendon and Felicia Johnston. Many larger donations are coming in and they have one sponsor for \$600. The HS365 fundraiser has brought in just under \$30,000 to date. Based on testing the academic performance data is in an upward trend, reversing the deficits seen during the COVID pandemic. All credit goes to the teachers who are making sure that gaps are being addressed and deficits in learning reversed. COVID continues to disrupt normal operations; absenteeism is up to 25% for students and 17% for staff. The excellent science instruction at HSCS is worth mentioning which includes field trips into nature, such as data collection on Beavers in the Mink Creek Area. The school will host a speaker for a vocations awareness day during Catholic Schools Week. Karianne showed the Board the amazing winners of the art competition, calling for a depiction of this year's theme of "Called, Chosen, Loved." Remote

learning plans remain in place only for emergency situations.

**New Business:** Karianne notified the board that she is considering tuition increases, particularly since tuition per single child does not nearly meet the cost of educating that child. The board discussed the various options and the comparison rates with other private schools in the area. Karianne will be considering how such an increase would be rolled out to the parents and developing a communication plan with existing families of HSCS, offering options and sliding scales to meet the increase. Karianne will provide more details on this as they develop.

**Deacon Scott offered the closing prayer at 9:45pm. Next meeting:** Wednesday February 9, 7pm, at the school.