

**Saint Francis de Sales School**

Parish Education Committee

Minutes

February 19, 2025 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Mr. Franco Caligiuri

Opening prayer and reflections - Faith Development: *Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith!* (10 minutes)

1. Prayer/Reflection - **Fr. Medard (lectio divina style)**

**An Excerpt from ‘Grace in Every Season’ by Servant of God, Catherine De Hueck Dorherty**

**“What Is a Christian Community?”**

A Christian community, first and foremost, must be a community of Christian love, founded on love of God and neighbor. Its members communicate with one another in the way Christ told us in the Gospel. This kind of communication requires an openness that transcends human understanding, especially in our present day when people feel so alienated from one another.

Members of a Christian community should be open to one another, know how to listen to one another, know when and how to speak. And each knows these things because each knows how to pray. This is how communication reaches the dimension of love that God desires. By this openness, by each member living the Gospel without compromise, each can slowly shed “human respect” as men and women shed garments; each one can slowly learn to accept injuries, persecution, gossip, etc. Peacefully, then joyously, each will learn a constant listening to the needs of the brethren within the community. Unless this law of Christ is applied, the community will never grow into true Christian maturity.

Christian communities are called by the Lord to leaven the community of the world which Jesus bought for his Father. “The words “I have built a dwelling place for you to live in forever” (2 Chronicles 6: 2) apply to the whole world. The ultimate reason for forming Christian communities is to make humanity realize that the world is God’s dwelling place which he built for men and women—that life in this world is an entry into the kingdom of the eternal God!

A community is a group of persons who have joined together because they are in love with God and in love with men and women. They want to bring God to men and men to God. They can do it better together than alone. Together we have each other, can console each other, pray for each other, encourage each other.

But to persevere in such a community, one must pray, really pray, without ceasing. While making the Mass the center of one’s life, communication with God must continue constantly; otherwise, communication with men and women will cease. The ways and means of prayer of the members of such communities must be determined by each community. But prayer there must be. Otherwise there will be no communication and consequently no community.

2. Approval of Agenda (5 minutes)

**MOTION:** Accept the Agenda (Ms. Jacqueline Lamasan, Ms. Leah Canete)

3. Adoption / Review of Minutes (5 minutes)

**MOTION:** Accept the Minutes (Ms. Rossa Sung, Mr. Chris Chung)

4. Reports (45 minutes)

Pastor	Father Mark McGuckin
Assistant Pastor	Father Medard Kamanzi
Principal	Mrs. Irene Wihak
Teachers' Representative	Mr. Greg Chapman
Chair	Mr. Franco Caligiuri
Treasurer	Mr. Anthony Tillman (regrets)
Vice Chair	Ms. Rossa Sung
Parish - School Community Building Initiative	Ms. Rossa Sung
Secretary	Mrs. Jacqueline Lamasan
Facility and Maintenance/Tech	Mrs. Leah Canete
Community Engagement	Mrs. Paula Ramor Mr. Chris Chung

**Fr. Mark McGuckin (7:47 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Life in the Spirit seminar has begun and will conclude before Holy Week
- Confirmation Mass date set for May 2
- First Confessions for Gr. 2 in March
- First Communion set for May 4
- Spring Alpha beginning April 24
- Fr. Mark has been meeting to discuss tuition assistance and categories with families
- The St. Francis de Sales doll is travelling around the globe

**Fr. Medard Kamanzi (7:07 pm)**

- Shared highlights from recent travels

**Mrs. Wihak (7:08 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Field trips among the grades discussed
- Fine Arts and Sports updates discussed
- Vignettes will be posted to our closed Youtube channel and parents will be informed
- School safety discussed
- Edits to the AGM PowerPoint will be reshared
- Staffing updates discussed

**Mr. Chapman (7:22 pm)**

- Nothing to report

**Mr. Anthony Tillman (7:23 pm)**

- Nothing to report

**Mr. Franco Caligiuri (7:23 pm)**

- Nothing to report

**Ms. Rossa Sung (7:23 pm)**

- Updates on Longest Day Race shared

**Mrs. Jacqueline Lamasan (7:26 pm)**

- Spring Fair contacts shared with STMC to arrange student volunteers

**Mrs. Leah Canete (7:27 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- Maintenance and Facility Executive Summary shared
- Ongoing facility needs and priorities discussed
- Snow removal options discussed
- Research of potential leasing/buying options for a tractor with cab will continue to be discussed in future
- Awaiting quote for smoke detector replacement

**Mrs. Paula Ramor and Mr. Chris Chung (7:35 pm)**

- As per report sent out in advance
- The Book Swap event is being coordinated and is on Feb. 20
- Currently looking for a coordinator for Plant Sales
- Number of families missing volunteering hours discussed

- Some families are taking advantage of the Opt Out option for Volunteering/Fundraising

5. Correspondence (5 minutes) – nothing to report

6. Parish - School community building initiative - (15 minutes)

- SFdS Saints in Training at the Longest Day Race discussed above – June 13

7. Ongoing Business/Action

8. New Business (30 min)

A. Volunteer of the Month recognition (Jason and Pia Kolba: - Up Next; new volunteer for April – Ellen

9. In Camera - Determine structure for supporting staff advance education

### **Closing Prayer**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12 @ 6:30 pm (early due to Spring Break)

Meeting closed at 8:37 pm by Mr. Franco Caligirui

### ***Phase A of the Strategic Plan – Our Ideal Future State:***

#### **Our Vision - 2025**

We are a Catholic School, instilling the knowledge of Christ's love  
and mercy in our community.

Our students ignite their passion and potential to love and serve others  
as Jesus would, in our safe and inspiring learning environment.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

We are a Christ-centered Parish School that seeks to serve the whole child  
– intellectually, spiritually, physically and emotionally – through the development of  
faith, family and community.

We use dynamic learning opportunities to produce resilient Catholics who lead by example and  
thrive in a global community.

### **Our Core Values**

- F – Faith:** Living actions that show confidence and trust in the love of God
- L – Learn:** Developing creative and critical thinkers whose actions contribute to a better world
- A – Achieve:** Committing and focusing on reaching your goals
- M – Mercy:** Demonstrating the love and forgiveness of Jesus with one another every day
- E – Engage:** Choosing to be actively involved in the life of our school
- S – Serve:** Seeking and accepting the call to act for the greater good

### **Our Rallying Cry**

***“Ignite the Saint Within”***