

**St. Sebastian Pastoral Council Minutes
January 8, 2018**

Location: Mother of Good Counsel

In attendance: Dillon Ambrose, Eunice Frieseke, Michelle Hansen, Cathy Hoffman, Lori Larch, Jen Ohlendorf, Edie Schwabe, Del Slowik, Maricolette Walsh, Margaret Wiemer, Andrew Zeidler, Fr. Larry Chapman, and Jim Ewig

Excused: Steve Ragatz and Margaret Wiemer

The meeting was called to order at 06:08.

Guest Speaker

Heather Gram, the principal of St. Sebastian School, joined the Council meeting as a guest. She reviewed her 2016-17 “year in review” presentation with the Council. The highlights included:

- The school’s mission statement and core values.
- Aspects of our student population and demographics. Heather reported that the population make up was 64% choice students and that 65.3% of the total students are Catholic. She stressed the importance and benefits of St Sebastian School retaining its Catholic identity.
- New uniforms in St Sebastian colors will be introduced.
- School begins each day with prayer.
- The Parent – Teacher conferences saw 100% attendance.
- There was also 100% staff participation in the 8th grade graduation.
- Heather is requiring all prospective students and parents to tour the school and meet Heather prior to admissions. This is being done to help assure that the student and school are a good fit.
- Staff meetings and retreats have much improved staff participation.
- Test scores have dramatically improved in language. Overall St Sebastian has received a state score of “Significantly Exceeds Expectations”. She mentioned many factors that influenced the positive results.
- Technology and the benefit it had to the improved results.
- The school’s vision of moving forward.
- St Sebastian faculty salaries have been raised; however, they are still on the low end of the scale when compared to other schools in the Archdiocese.

Most of the Council felt that this good news needs to be shared and broadcast widely

Heather stated her biggest need at this time is an addition of a part time data manager. The position would assist with the massive data gathering the state requires when accepting Choice funds.

Review of November prior minutes

Eunice moved to approve minutes. Dillon seconded the motion. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

The committee reports were deferred due to time. Jen asked all members to review these on their own time.

**St. Sebastian Pastoral Council Minutes
January 8, 2018**

Fr Larry's report

Heather had a fund raising appeal letter mailed to St Sebastian School families. The appeal was to raise funds for a proposed playground and landscaping project. The goal was to raise \$50,000 to \$70,000 in funds. It was felt the appeal was made prematurely and that the request was not approved through the proper channels. Approximately \$7000 in donations has already been received. The Finance Council will have further discussion(s) on how to proceed with the appeal and the funds already received.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting to be held at St Catherine.

Upcoming Dates

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm