

Holy Rosary School Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2022

Carina VanPelt, Kelsey Salsbery, Hollie Miyasaki, Flower Aston, Lauren Mobley, Rob Marnell, BrittanyThomas, Magli Hernandez, Mary Martinez, Maggie Chavez, Cheryl Grubbe

- I. Opening Prayer-**1:02 Carina VanPelt.**
- II. Introductions
- III. Approve Minutes-**Minutes Approved.**
- IV. New officer and new board member elections-**This meeting we are voting in new officers and members for next year. Officers will officially take these positions in August. There is no plan for summer or an August meeting so the next meeting will be in September and will be run by the new officers. Motions were made and voting completed. The School Board for next year will be made up of the following individuals:**
 - i. **Chairperson: Rob Marnell**
 - ii. **Vice Chair: Maggie Chavez**
 - iii. **Secretary: Flower Aston**
 - iv. **Two new board members: Kiersten Landers and Taryn Kammeraad.**
- V. School Board Ambassador Discussion-
 - a. **Pre-k had their first meet up and 4 families showed up. Everyone stayed for a few hours and met at the Auditorium. One concern voiced from a parent is feeling like they are not getting a lot of communication. Lauren tried to clarify the communication issue and they were just wanting more information on what their students are learning in pre-k so it can be reinforced at home.**
 - b. **Flower reports not too much communication from kindergarten parents; there is some planning for kindergarten graduation currently taking place and parents are starting to sign up to help.**
 - c. **Maggie says her grade has been pretty quiet, and teacher appreciation week went well.**

- d. Hollie says we are still on the birthday party circuit. Some parents have expressed appreciation of the letters coming out from the school regarding next year's plan for teachers. People sound excited about having Mr. McGovern next year. There have not been tons of feedback as a whole from second grade.
- e. Mary says 6th grade is planning the 6th grade graduation; parents have a spot reserved for Mass, there will be a brunch reception afterwards with breakfast items, a slide show of pictures of the students through the years, and students will go back to class afterwards and be out of the cafeteria by lunch, or be dismissed with their families. Students are preparing to go to different middle schools next year.
- f. Mary reports other non-6th grade parents have been expressing they are unhappy with academics at Holy Rosary because they are not happy with quality of the academics. Specifically, there is a comparison to Alturas and it is believed they are ahead of Holy Rosary in spanish and math and Mary has heard good things about the school academically. She notes that this is a widespread problem. Mary says she is grateful that Holy Rosary exists and wants to keep it growing strong. She is just wanting to be honest and very transparent.
 - i. Carina does agree that our spanish program is not as robust as Alturas and our kids have not been assigned a lot of homework. She believes there are pros and cons of having homework.
 - a. Carina's feelings regarding homework is it can be good with families that have a good homelife but we have a lot of kids who don't necessarily have a good home life. There can be pros to homework but it has to be used in the right way.
 - ii. Carina disagrees with the perception of Alturas doing better academically. If you look specifically at reading and math in regards to proficiency data based off what Alturas is publishing and the numbers we have, Holy Rosary out performs, and the numbers this year are looking really good. Students are taking MAP tests over the next few weeks so we will be getting more feedback from those results as well.
 - iii. Carina says she is putting together a graph/resource for comparing public school scores to Holy Rosary. It will include proficient numbers and growth numbers.

- iv. **Proficient numbers at Alturas: 48% of students are proficient in math and 62% in reading.**
- v. **Looking back at Holy Rosary Star data from 2019-20.**
 - 1. **Math proficiency from two years ago (we were well into covid) shows**
 - a. **1st grade 100%**
 - b. **2nd grade 63%**
 - c. **3rd grade 67%**
 - d. **4th grade 75%**
 - e. **5th grade 94%**
 - f. **6th grade 80%**
 - 2. **Map testing currently in progress for the end of this year**
 - 3. **Reading proficiency from the same year (two years ago) shows**
 - a. **1st grade 89%**
 - b. **2nd grade 69%**
 - c. **3rd grade 53%**
 - d. **4th grade 75%**
 - e. **5th grade 88%**
 - f. **6th grade 87%**
 - 4. **Hollie questioned that if Holy Rosary students are doing well, where does the perception come from that they are not doing as well as somewhere else?**
 - 5. **Carina thinks there is a misconception with the communication with regards to the report cards. When we switched report card grading this year there has been some miscommunication. There needs to be clear communication of where the student is. Are they on, below, or above grade level? There seems to be some communication disconnect with teachers too.**
 - a. **There are a couple of examples of students who have been high off the charts at Holy Rosary leaving and going to two other schools; one was Alturas and they didn't grow (this is just one kid) and another former student went to a Montessori school and came back a year later and the growth was just a flatline.**

6. Flower pointed out it's really important for retention and recruitment that the comparison numbers (not just compared to public schools but especially compared to charter, private, and Montessori schools because these are often times in direct competition of Holy Rosary) are put out there for current families and prospective families to see and refer to often to understand that Holy Rosary is a great choice specifically when it comes to academics.
7. Carina has indicated in the past Holy Rosary has had years when its been 100% across the board. It's been a while, Covid has been hard. We are used to seeing almost every kid on grade level and if not then close to it. Holy Rosary needs to do a better job of showing its proficiency, in the past Carina has had information covered in the bulletin/Catholic Schools' Week, she has discussed numbers when on individual tours with families, has put the numbers in the newsletter, and in Facebook posts, but feels she could do more-maybe could tie it into PTO events too.
8. Hollie suggested maybe we could email out the document Carina is creating to parents.
9. There was some discussion where different schools' benchmarks are. Holy Rosary is at 50 percentiles. These numbers would be even higher when looking at the district. 50% or above is our markers.
10. It was suggested that it would be good to see on the student report cards where the standards are and how they compare so parents can know how their student is doing compared to other schools.
11. Kelsey says parents, even very involved parents, don't always know the questions to ask to know where your kid is at academically. We love to hear how the school is doing but also want to have focus on each kid. We don't want to take advantage of teachers' time but it would be nice to hear from teachers more often about how kids are doing when doing well and not doing well in specific areas.
12. Maybe ambassadors can step in a little more and kind of help facilitate some more of the information to try to keep them informed more. The quicker the information is given the better. Carina says we

will address the ambassador program a little more at the end of the meeting.

13. Magali says her child was tested and the results show below grade level and hasn't made any progress. She is frustrated because she hasn't been told this from the teacher/school so how was she supposed to find out? She says she has been the type of parent to email teachers and the replies she gets are "they are doing great" and "they will get there" and now we are towards the end of the year and her child isn't there and she had to find her own resources to get help for her child.

a. She is feeling disappointed because her child hasn't grown academically. She feels with the amount of money they pay in tuition, she could just pay a private tutor to get the help he needs. She feels that communication is a huge thing. Her daughter was not talking in class for 1 ½ years and she wasn't told. She talked with Carina about this and Carina wasn't aware that the student wasn't talking, and Magali is wondering why she wouldn't know this after 1 ½ years. She feels there seems to be a problem with communication somewhere.

b. She is wondering what can this school do because her kid is below grade level and has been here for 3 years and it's not from the lack of her effort as a parent as she has been trying to communicate and has also found outside resources that she feels like is helping. So, she is one of the parents who is considering moving schools because if the school is not meeting her child's needs, she needs to find it somewhere else.

14. Magali says there are other parents who are having concerns.

15. Carina responds that it is not selfish to put your kids first. She thinks it would be good to have a conversation with Mrs. Winston and look at the data that the school has together. She agrees there are some kids that are not on grade level so it would be good to have

individual conversations with those families to see where your child is at and what can we do for them.

- VI. Marketing Report-
- VII. Wine Auction- **The auction total is the most ever and it was very successful. Kelsey thanks you for attending, bidding, and volunteering. There was a wrap up meeting which they do every year to hear about concerns, great things etc., and they take notes to prepare for next year. Next year's auction will be in the spring again; April 29th.**
- VIII. **Crystal Zmak will be taking on logistics of the Zoo event, July 11th. They will need some volunteers to help with that. A few tickets are available. And it would be nice to have a couple of school board members to help with the event. They are still waiting for a list of needs from Crystal.**
 - a. **Thanks to everyone who helped with the wine auction. Kelsey we are going to miss you next year and thank you for all you have done.**
 - b. HRCS Golf Tournament
 - c. **Centennial Celebration -100 years celebration. A Volunteer sign up via Sign Up Genius to come out soon. At 9:30am on Sunday there is a special 100 year dedication Mass. Everyone 21 and older is welcome to come to the reception June 4th, at 6pm at the Waterfront at Snake River Landing. There will be food, drinks, a special toast, and Bishop Peter will be there.**
 - i. **It would be great if the school board could be there.**
- IX. PTO Report-**PTO thank you Brittany for doing the teacher appreciation week. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered. PTO wants to push forward a luncheon for all the volunteers to really thank them for all the help and show appreciation. PTO is working on the budget for next year. Magali is not serving as president for next year. They are currently working on PTO president for next year.**
 - a. **Thank you to the PTO board for teacher appreciation week. It sounds like it went really well.**
- X. Principal's Report-**Carina wanted to express sincere gratitude to Magali, Kelsey, and Lauren. Thank you to the people who are leaving for all their hard work and dedication to the school this whole year.**

- a. **Rob has seen the success of a combo class at Holy Rosary but we may be getting questions about it the 4th, 5th, and 6th combo class. With such a small number going into 5th grade, it makes sense to do a combo class to help meet and provide individual academic needs for each child. But if the school gets an influx of 5th graders Carina will look at hiring a 4th grade teacher. Currently the plan is 4th and 5th in a homeroom. And 6th with its own homeroom. Mrs. Garcia and Atwell currently co-teach 5th and 6th already. The school will meet kids at their academic needs.**
 - i. **If people have concerns about the combo class its best for them to call Carina and discuss it. Come September, there may be changes based on number of students.**

XI. **Ambassador Plan for next school year-Previously there was some thought about having two ambassadors for the whole school. Carina met with two of the potential ambassadors and from conversations with them and other ambassadors she has decided to have a year without ambassadors and not have the program for the next school year. There have been frustrations with communication this year, and removing ambassadors may help to promote teacher and parent communication and not have as much of a middle man. If there are less ambassadors, then it would help free them up to do other forms of volunteering. There has been comments about too many forms of communication and maybe eliminating the ambassador communications would help simplify that. Then we would just see how the year goes and if the ambassador program needs to come back, then we will bring it back.**

- a. **We as school board members can still be involved and provide input from what we hear from parents without being an ambassador. Thanks again Lauren for all your work.**

XII. **Old Business**

- a. **The school board will address bylaws next year. Carina will visit with Fr. Flores about the topic of recommendations about kids going to other schools and get recommendations from him.**

XIII. **New Business**

XIV. **Closing Prayer-2:01 Carina.**

Zoo Monday July 11

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Mission

Holy Rosary Catholic School's mission is to use its Christian Catholic traditions and community resources to empower and celebrate student achievement, so that our students will have a secure environment in which to grow in their knowledge of God, themselves, community, and academics and use that knowledge to reach their God-given potential.

Vision

Holy Rosary School will be the most outstanding elementary school in the Idaho Falls area.

Values

- G - Gifts from God
- R - Respect and Responsibility
- E - Expressing Excellence
- A - Academic Achievement
- T - Togetherness with Community