



St Albert PPC Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

Attendees:

Chris Gould
Father Dave Harris
Mike Ahrens
Brittany Pesce
Kelly Schulz
Brooke Borders
Ted Bordador
Kelly Dean
Danielle Walters
Stephanie Davis
David Bufford
Jill Mueller
Kitty Wagner

January minutes approved

Father Dave

Report on Parish

Challenge of space, PLC was funded based on certain parameters that did not include additional classrooms. Therefore, the upstairs space cannot be utilized for this purpose, which leaves the 2 areas in the basement of HH.

Background discussion of work that went into HH to deem it sustainable to host classrooms during the BTB campaign.

How do we “reboot” the parish?

Adding/integrating 2 extra classrooms into the basement of HH and utilizing technology to brighten those spaces, suspending the ceiling for sound, and other various things that can be done with paint, flooring, colors, etc...

Preliminary budget \$60,000 to renovate plus new chairs

Teacher’s email message about HH renovation. Communication follow-up piece sent by

FD to provide more details about HH renovation/addition of 2 classrooms in basement of building

School created an enrollment matrix to predict future enrollments; from COVID came an opportunity for us.

Requirements became more strict for preschool classroom capacity so some of these had to move to the main school building. (but were not permanent - should loosen once Covid passes).

Two grades had a larger influx of students from outside which created an opportunity to increase those particular groups to a 3-classroom grade.

Goal has been to have each grade at 3-classrooms.

FD reads feedback from other stakeholders to the group.

Debbie, Ellen and Janelle - positive message in favor of expansion to 3 classrooms by renovating basement rooms to accommodate the Junior Kindergarten class and Kindergarten class.

Craig Vermost - in favor of HH lower level

There was not a lot of time to make the final decision to renovate the lower level of HH however countless hours were dedicated to discuss the space available and ideas.

KW - where are K classrooms now. 2 in the main building? One (1) in HH (3 Ks and 1 JK). New plan (goal) is to have all K and preschool classes in the HH building.

SD - will K and preschool get to experience specials and move in and out of the lower level space after COVID restrictions are lifted? FD, things will be as they were prior to covid.

KS - discuss potential use of Viking Room and current Youth room for the upcoming year.

FD - As covid goes away, these two spaces will be more utilized. Viking Room is completely mobile and can be used for various activities. The youth room must be maintained for that ministry.

BD - why wouldn't the Youth Room be available during the daytime, like the Viking Room, since the Youth ministry uses that space mainly in evenings. If we have 2 rooms available that are not utilized in the daytime, and can save some money (for the short term solution for the LL in HH)? Using upper level rooms could save us money.

FD - preliminary talks with the architect would cost approximately \$1 million to add 2 brand new classrooms (new construction as a branch off from the current PLC) to our campus. Until a stable base of people is established, this solution is not feasible.

FD - important to maintain PLC as originally defined to donors during the BTB, unwilling to consider using the 2 upstairs rooms for additional classrooms.

SD - if spanish can go to Viking Room, couldn't a K class move into the Viking Room and spanish class use the downstairs room?

JM - would like a tour of the school so she is familiar with areas we are discussing tonight.

BB - Viking Room is being used as a 1st grade room right now.

CG Viking Room no different than rooms in basement (agreeing with Kitty W)

FD - we have a mindset of what a basement looks and feels like however the proposed lighting and technology will considerably upgrade the rooms.

KW - likes BB's idea of spanish in basement and K class using upstairs Viking Room

BB - temporary solution to our growing needs, spending \$60,000 to renovate when we can use upstairs and only need to purchase furniture?

FD - this gives us a few more years to see what and how levels of enrollment will fluctuate and stabilize. Feels we will get our money's worth out of this project.

DB - why is this a temporary solution? If they will be nicest classes on campus, wouldn't they be a more permanent project?

FD - needs to understand enrollment trends before committing to long term solutions. Is this sustainable or just a bubble; administration ensures FD it is a change of mindset, an enrollment swing from public to catholic education.

CG - how many students do we need to generate \$1 million for the school, **20 kids for 9 years**.

Biggest stakeholders are teachers, and we have 2 that are very concerned about teaching in the basement space. Inclusion and discussion is important and those teachers don't have a good idea of the plan for these rooms.

FD - time is of essence. August is right around the corner.

CG - suggests the architect mock up drawings as a marketing tactic for their firm. He suggests a design sharet for the teachers to enhance their buy-in experience

MA - basic principles in catholic teachings incorporated into the process of this project. Take a step back and pray about the project, make peace with it and move forward, very important for the stakeholders (teachers) to be sure their thoughts/concerns have been acknowledged.

JM - what are we going to do about the letter? Feels it deserves a response.

FD - Ellen and Debbie will respond to the letter.

BB - letter was addressed to PPC. Feels church and school are not working together. Thinks PLC will not/is not being used. Worried about the mental health of workers and students.

MA - mental health is a legitimate concern and needs to be addressed, especially

coming off a year of claustrophobia and isolation. **These folks (teachers) do need to be heard and be addressed.**

BD - the viking room and youth room clearly feels different to both these teachers. Perhaps basement rooms feel deficient. Feels there needs to be a better reason for why the two upstairs rooms cannot be used (other than original promise to donors during BTB campaign). Will the youth room ever be used during a school day?

SD - has an upcoming kindergarten that could potentially be in one of the basement rooms, and is not happy about it, worried that if the teachers are unhappy that may affect students/classrooms. How often is upstairs space being used on a normal school day?

CG - project is an experiment with this temporary solution. If parents don't want to send kids to a basement classroom we will know right away it was a bad idea. If parents don't buy in, they will pull out and we will know. Other schools may market the "basement classrooms" against us / in their favor to attract families. We are in a competitive situation with surrounding catholic schools. Covid has pointed out the benefits of catholic education.

*CG will respond to the teacher and let her know Ellen and Debbie will be reaching out to respond.

*People look to PPC as leadership but SB had a big part in this. It is our job to listen to all parishioners and make sure they are being heard.

PPC Representative Reports

Brendan D. / Administration Finance & Facilities

LB - Finance Council is being audited by the archdiocese this week. Worksheets will go to all ministries this week.

Brooke B. / Administration Communication & Stewardship
Has not heard back from Emily Bowling

Ted B. / Lifelong Formation & Ed Adults
No update

Brittany P. / Lifelong Formation & Ed Children

Work Plan Update: Children's Liturgy

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

A few of us met last week and had a very good discussion about our ministry. All stated that their children miss Children's Liturgy of the Word, and a couple noted that their family may feel more inclined to return to Mass knowing that this ministry helps their children and the parents focus during Mass. We all agreed that the COVID-19 case rates are currently too high, and the comfort level is still rather low, or saying that the consistency of attendance would not be good at this time.

So we came to the consensus with the decision to revisit a start date for Children's Liturgy of the Word a few weeks after Spring Break, looking at COVID-19 rates, etc, and the safety factor for all involved.

Visitation Hall is set up nicely with 10 tables and 20 chairs, and we can use a wireless microphone and have individually packaged craft supplies for the children. We will seat siblings at the same table, and a good suggestion was to ask the children if any other children are in their homeroom at school and to sit them at the same table with chairs on opposite sides. I will ask if we may set up an additional 2 tables and chairs as a permanent setup, or if I will need to place two extra tables each week when we reopen.

2. Work Plan Update: PREP

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

Currently we have 30 Prep families, with 55 kids in-person and several more online.

3. Work Plan Update: VBS

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

Discussions involving whether or not to host the VBS this coming summer. Seeds have been planted to possibly have VBS on a contained scale, during the evening when temperatures are cooler.

4. Work Plan Update: 8th Grade Confirmation

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

Will commence this Wednesday and Thursday, split into two Masses.

5. Work Plan Update: First Reconciliation

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

Workshops will commence next Sunday and next Tuesday.

6. Work Plan Update: Baptisms

Name/Goal of Work Plan Item:

Currently have 30 baptisms, and adding more dates to accommodate increasing numbers.

7. Other Items Discussed:

I asked Cindy why she thought the number of Baptisms had increased, she commented that a couple families had moved to the area and were seeking out a church/school. We both agreed it would be interesting to ask families exactly why they had chosen St. Albert for their child(rens) baptism(s) for feedback purposes.

8. Miscellaneous Comments/Items:

There have been no scheduled meetings for the Children's Ministry, with no dates in sight. I plan on sitting down with Cindy in the spring to discuss the areas within this ministry more in depth, and perhaps set a schedule of meetings for these areas to start next August.

Danielle W. / Lifelong Formation & Ed School
Same discussion - classroom space

Kitty W. / Lifelong Formation & Ed Small Group Adults
LG - Debbie Scherer is doing a Zoom bible study. Small groups will be important and good opportunities to discuss how covid has affected them

David B. / Lifelong Formation & Ed Youth
EM is on maternity leave

Stephanie D. / Parish Life SAAM
Spring sport numbers are up
Fish Fry had to refund \$500- \$700 dollars, brought in \$6800 overall.

Mike A. / Parish Life Pastoral Care
LG - brought 8 folks onboard for homebound
Working on assistance for people shut in that need a covid vaccine
Wants to commence Grief counseling group

Jill M. / Social Concerns & Justice
Lenten Tree collection
Appalachian outreach collection

Kelly D. / Worship
Absent

PPC Membership Recruitment

Ask friends/parishioners who would enjoy participating on the PPC, each member should bring one candidate. Need 8 to 12 new candidates.

Closing Remarks

Soliciting folks to tell their stories of catholic conversion for parish post. Look for those to come.

Closing Prayer