

Walla Walla Catholic School Board Meeting Highlights- March 2019

President's Report:

The Spanish language night was a success. Up until now we have been able to translate materials into Spanish when needed, but we will need plan in place for addressing an extra communication needs between parents and students and teachers, if, as hoped, we have more enrollment.

Fr. Nicks has not heard of any progress from the Bishop in regard to having sisters come join our schools. All are encouraged to ask the Bishop during his visit and let him know how excited we are about the prospect.

Principal's Report: DeSales accreditation revisit went very well. The accreditation team will return in 4 years instead of the usual 3 year cycle, based on the progress we have made on communication with our parents and our revised strategic plans.

Good News! We have no need for snow make up days, therefore, Monday April 22 will be observed as an Easter Monday holiday and Friday, May 24th will be a noon release.

Laurel Mulkin resigned as the ELC director. Any input on the hiring process should be directed to Mr Lesko.

DeSales 8 man football: The public meeting on the future of the football program was well attended. Schedules are being put together now for DeSales to play 8-man football for the 2019 season. Given the number of boys identified as players for next year, and that we currently play up a level in WIAA league play, along with rule changes by the WIAA allowing certain schools to play down, it was a necessary move for the safety of our students and to preserve the high school football program. Other members of the 8 man league are teams we have played in the past, and some would require less travel.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds - Architects completed a walk through and building assessment during Spring break, with Jerry Anhorn hosting them. They will schedule meetings with the broader WWCS community this spring and summer. The plan is for the architects to unveil our master plan sometime in early fall.

Policy - Marleen Ramsey has agreed to chair the policy committee. If anyone would like to work on policy issues, Marleen would welcome a diversity of opinions when discussing these matters.

Finance – There were 254 students registered as of March 26th, with 14 more in process and 19 potential new students. The preliminary fall budget was based on 271

students. The Finance Committee is confident that we will meet or exceed this number by fall. Our staffing looks stable, and most classes can absorb more students, especially the incoming 4th and 5th grades. Fr. Seidel is working on a proposal to bring to the board for strategic recruitment for lower enrollment grades. Two prospective new finance committee members are Dr Jim Buratto and alumni Nick Lyons.

Other Business: Advancement update from Jamie VanWormer - The library transformation is coming along with big changes in the next couple of weeks. Bishop Daly will bless the new space on Sunday, April 28th at 11am. The parish pledge is currently underway, and Jamie has been speaking at masses the past few weeks. She is working with some of our parishioners to establish scholarships for Hispanic families to join our schools.

Good of the Order: Brenda Shields read a letter signed by some of the Assumption faculty regarding the benefits of a full time administrator on site. A formal response from the board is being formulated and will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 25th, at 6:30 pm.