



## **School Advisory Council**

January 15, 2025

### **Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Hammons called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**Opening Prayer:** Mrs. Shannahan

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved Dec 5, 2024, minutes

#### **Officer Ellis' Introduction and Role**

- Officer Ellis is the school resource officer (SRO) for Monument Police Department. He explains his background, including his experience as an SRO and his previous roles in law enforcement.
- Officer Ellis explains the differences between the Alice protocols and the SRP, emphasizing the district-wide implementation of SRP. He describes the hold, secure, and lockdown procedures under SRP, including student movement restrictions.
- He discusses the effectiveness of having a police car at the school as a deterrent for crime.

#### **SRO Program**

- Officer Ellis outlines the Monument Police Department's five-year plan to expand the SRO program to all schools in District 38. He mentions the financial challenges of maintaining full-time SROs at each school and the potential for shared SRO coverage between schools (i.e. Bear Creek Elementary).
- He highlights the importance of maintaining a visible police presence to deter crime and ensure student safety.
- Officer Ellis describes the active shooter training exercises conducted at the school, involving staff and local fire departments. He emphasizes the importance of training staff in first aid and response tactics, such as the "stop the bleed" program.
- He discusses the role of the SRO in building relationships with staff and students to improve safety and reduce aggressive behavior.

## **Parental Involvement and Volunteer Programs**

- It was asked about the effectiveness of parental involvement programs like the watchdog program. Officer Ellis explains the challenges of recruiting volunteers for such programs and the benefits of having armed staff members at schools.
- He discusses the importance of transparency and community engagement in maintaining a positive perception of the SRO program.
- Officer Ellis shares his experiences with community events and assemblies to foster positive relationships with parents and students.

## **Presentation on New Governance Model from Superintendent Sheila Whalen**

- Mrs. Whalen introduces the new governance model for Catholic schools in the Colorado Springs area, including the creation of a school board.
- The board will consist of pastors, priests, and lay people to oversee the business aspects of the schools and ensure financial stability.
- The goal is to combine resources and find additional funding sources to make Catholic education more affordable for families.
- The SAC emphasizes the importance of maintaining the individual identities of each school while achieving financial equity across the diocese.

## **Challenges and Opportunities in School Funding**

- Mrs. Whalen discusses the financial strain on parishes with schools and the need for additional funding sources. The new governance model aims to relieve financial pressure on pastors and expand the involvement of other parishes in supporting Catholic schools.
- The SAC highlights the importance of transparency and collaboration with pastors and principals in implementing the new model.
- The goal is to create a sustainable financial structure that supports the educational needs of Catholic schools while maintaining their unique identities.

## **Teacher Salaries and Compensation**

- The SAC raises concerns about the impact of the new governance model on teacher salaries and compensation. Mrs. Whalen explains the goal of providing competitive wages to attract and retain quality teachers while maintaining financial stability. The new model aims to standardize teacher salaries across the diocese, ensuring equitable compensation for teachers.
- The SAC emphasizes the importance of maintaining the ability of schools to make decisions about teacher salaries and compensation based on local needs and economic conditions.
- The SAC stresses the importance of community involvement and transparency in the new governance model. Mrs. Whalen acknowledges the need for clear communication and collaboration with parents, principals, and pastors in implementing the new model.
- The goal is to ensure that the new governance structure supports the educational and financial needs of Catholic schools while maintaining community trust and engagement.

## **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

- Mr. Hammons thanks Officer Ellis for his presentation and emphasizes the importance of continued collaboration and communication.
- Mrs. Whalen outlines the next steps in the implementation of the new governance model, including the formation of the school board and the development of uniform budgeting practices.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to ongoing dialogue and collaboration to ensure the success of the new governance structure and the safety and well-being of students and staff.

**Principal Update:** Mrs. Shannahan provided handout to review – see attached to email.

**Closing Prayer:** Mrs. Shannahan

**Attendance:** Alicia Thompson, Stew Hammons, Karen Shannahan, Jayme Oakley, Katie Torris, Ann-Marie Jojola, Andrea Keough, James Henry, JP O’Hanlon, Maxine Biggs, Micah Shamash, Linda Wilson, Chelsea Kilday, Kyle Goodroe, John Gormley, Sheila Whalen, Officer Ellis

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Feb 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

### ***Mission Statement:***

*The mission of St. Peter Catholic School is to partner with parents who are the first and primary educators of their children. Our challenging classical curriculum encourages students to achieve academic excellence and grow in their Catholic faith through virtue and Truth. We strive to form future leaders and disciples who demonstrate integrity, compassion, and respect to all.*

### ***Vision Statement:***

*St. Peter Catholic School forms the whole child through a Christ-centered, integrated Catholic classical education based on Truth and virtue. Our faith community equips students to become leaders in the Church and world, with salvation as the ultimate purpose.*