

## **Church of the Resurrection Finance Council Meeting Minutes**

7:15 p.m. 29/Mar/2017

*The mission of the parish Finance Council is to promote stewardship as a way of life, to insure that parish resources are used in accordance with the principles of stewardship and to secure the financial stability of the parish for future generations*

### **Members Present:**

Jan Goers Chairperson (2018), Christine Looney (2018), Stacey Heiman (2017), Cathleen Brokaw (2017), James Pfeifer (2018), Bill Cook (2019), Greg Davied (2019), Fred Knoblach (2019), and Fr. Weldon

**Absent:** Nick Bombardier (2017)

Also in attendance: Parish Bookkeeper, Jodi Coulter & Resurrection Catholic School (RCS) Principal, Kori Heiman

**Opening Prayer** – Fr. Weldon, reflection on the 6<sup>th</sup> Station – Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

**Approval of Minutes** & meeting agenda – Jan Goers

### **New Business:**

Special guest, RCS Principal Kori Heiman, gave an overview on the State of the School. Special emphasis and questions were directed toward possible school expansion.

2017 RCS enrollment is at 223 students, grades K – 8. RCS is up 10 students for the 2017-18 year. That consists of 32 incoming of KG, and 29 1<sup>st</sup> graders. The plan is for 2 classrooms each for KG and 1<sup>st</sup>. A maximum of 25 per classroom has been set for KG through 2<sup>nd</sup>. While new requirements do not allow class sizes as large as earlier years, it may be possible to go as high as 30 per class in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and above. Diocesan guidelines do request a para-professional be added for more than 23 children in a K-2 classroom or 28 with 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. RCS currently uses several paras, as an optimal supplement to teachers in the larger classrooms, including the 2 KG classes.

As to growth, currently 38 children are enrolled in 4 year old Pre-K & 20 in 3yr. More 3yr olds typically are added over the summer months. The 4 year old Pre-K will be able to accommodate up to 46 students with 14 all day & 2x16 in half day Pre-K. The current group of 40 does not consist entirely of Church of the Resurrection parishioners. Any developing waiting list for pre-K would follow the same order of admissions priority – listed on the website – as for K-8.

It is to be noted that RCS has an excellent reputation. It was designated a Diocesan Banner School for 2015/2016. Anecdotal evidence suggests young families are becoming concerned with potential waiting lists and even checking on potential space for their newborns! It is also never too early to begin education on the Stewardship way of life.

**Financials:** Jodi Coulter reviewed the financials with the council. Current month actuals were below last year. Collections for the year are still below projections and budget requirements. The June 30<sup>th</sup> year end projections still show a budget surplus. This is due to the previously mentioned large building fund donation to pay off the debt, and expenses below budget. Looking only at the Operations side of the ledger, we are forecasted to be in the Red, even with the reduced expenses.

With the additional school expenses for next year a balanced budget appears, at best, difficult to achieve.

Detailed discussion of the financials was curtailed due to time constraints. It was suggested to add an YTD Budget column to better understand status. This is not a straightforward task, as expenses do not occur evenly throughout the calendar year.

There was more iteration on the need for stewardship education. Several ideas were mentioned such as ensuring this is included in registration packets. It was also mentioned that parents could be advised of the school selection hierarchy in the Baptism class literature, parish web site and an annual bulletin announcement. It may be necessary to revitalize the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course also.

**Old Business:**

The School Expansion Subcommittee has identified members. Beyond the Finance Council subset, Kori Heiman and Mike Imhof from School Advisory council will also be added. Much research and data analytics needs to take place to fully understand the demographics, growth potential and parish/school needs. The committee intends to meet monthly with a final recommendation report by Jan 2018. Again, the charter of this committee is to study the Feasibility of School Expansion.

Several items mentioned by Diocesan Finance Director Bryan Coulter at the last meeting are not currently being practiced by this council. The discussion of how to best implement changes to better align with the Diocesan guidelines was postponed to the April meeting.

Other discussions on how to improve the effectiveness of this council included having a Stewardship committee member on the Finance, or alternatively a FC member working with Stewardship.

**Other Actionable items:**

Members should review Bryan Coulter literature and consider prioritization. Send any recommendations to Jan for next month's agenda.

Next meeting: April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, 7:15pm