**Aquinas Catholic Schools Education Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2019**

**Mary Mother of the Church**

**Commission Members Present**: Father Konopa, Father Marshall, Father Parr, Father Dhein, Justin Silcox (Chair), Jane Ryan, Jessica Boland, Peter Schmitz, Jennifer Miskowski, Sandy Perpich, Kay Berra, Sue Amble, Denise Ring, Patty Kosmkta, Ted Knutson

**Opening Prayer**: The meeting commenced with opening prayer lead by Father Dhein.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the May 16th meeting.

**Education Commission Chair Report:**

***Welcome and Introductions***: Mr. Silcox welcome all new members and expressed appreciation for their willingness to be a part of this leadership committee for the school system.

***2019-2020 Meeting schedule:*** Mr. Silcox shared meeting dates/times/locations for the 2019-2020 school year. They will be:

Thursday September 19th at MMOC

Thursday November 21st at Aquinas High/Middle School (Library)

Thursday February 20th at TBD

Thursday May 21st at St. Elizabeth’s in Holmen

***Commission Goals for year:*** Mr. Silcox shared purpose of commission. The commission will be an advisory committee for the school administration to approved policies and regulations relative to educational programs, personnel, and school system governance and administration.

**Presidents Report:**

***Enrollment update:*** Mr. Knutson discussed the enrolment for the system is down for the first time in three years. The enrollment is down for the La Crosse public schools as well. A continued focus on growing the enrollment……

***Safety update and follow up:*** Mr. Knutson alerted the Education Commission that based on past disciplinary issues and direction how to handle certain matters relating to student conduct a review of our school system’s conduct code is necessary. No other information was presented.

***Saint Elizabeth/appointment to Finance Committee:*** Due to the increased parish financial support being asked of Saint Elizabeth’, the parish will be offered a seat on the school system finance committee. It was discussed that no vote was needed as it is already operating policy to allow parish who contribute greater than 25 percent of their annual review will have a seat on the committee.

***Process for selecting ACS coaches:*** Mr. Silcox asked on the behalf of some concerned parents about the process for hiring athletic coaches at all levels.

**Vice-President’s Report:** Mrs. Berra reported the school system will be going through an accreditation review during the 2020-2021 school year. Preparation is under way with nine (9) continuous improvement committees and the execution of the school systems strategic plan. This accreditation was slightly delayed but with the additional time Aquinas will continue to prepare.

***Principal Reports:*** Truancy policy update from Mrs. Ring. Aquinas policy is the same as the other state public schools per the Department of Public Instruction. On line absent reporting will now be used in the 7-12 buildings to assist the families.

***Dean’s Report:***  Father Dhein expressed his enthusiasm to be appointed as the Dean for the Aquinas Catholic Schools. He shared his passion for Catholic Schools and offered to help in anyway he can to support our schools. He did express his concerns about the financial stress some parishes are having to meet their parish subsidies. He will be working with Mr. Knutson and the schools finance committee to establish a long term plan to address this concern.

**Closing Prayer**: The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer lead by Father Dhein.