

St. Columban Church

Minutes of the Finance Council Meeting dated March 20, 2019

In Attendance: Walter Klein (Chair), Ed McPhillips (Vice Chair), Terry O'Connell (Secretary), Brian Robinson, Patrick Leshner, Ann Marie Krych, John LaFrance (Parish Council), Steve Milby, Greg Hang, Jo Rhoten (School Principal), Joe Crachiolo (School Assistant Principal)

Not In Attendance: Greg Ionna

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

School Principal Report: The school administration has been considering the creation of a multi-year contract with the Loveland Police Department to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for St. Columban School. An SRO is a sworn police officer, employed by the local police agency and assigned to a local school or school district. The cost of the program, approximately \$110k per year for a three year term, may be shared between the police agency and the school or district. Our school administration expects the actual cost of the program to be approximately \$55k per academic year.

Council members asked numerous questions to better understand the cost, contract term, staffing options and other aspects of the program. Members enquired about the use of the SRO program in local public and parochial schools and highlighted recent investments of over \$60k in St. Columban's school security.

Given the declining trend in enrollment and pressure on the cost of tuition, the cost of the SRO program will likely require an increase in the parish subsidy to the school for at least the next three academic years. While short-term parish affordability was definitely not an issue, an annual cost increase of this size may impact other strategic spending plans. As a result, the general sense of Council was in support of different safety strategies than a full-time SRO, which counsels taking more time to build school and parish community consensus.

Parish Council Update: John shared an update on the Parish Council's activities, details of which may be found in the Parish Council minutes.

Review of Prior Month Financial Records: February financial statements were reviewed. Finances remain on or better than budget. Sunday collections have decreased slightly as compared to last year, but we are still ahead of budget.

Budget Draft Review: The current version of the 2019-20 school budget was reviewed by members of the Council. There is challenging work yet to be done and Council will review again in the next meeting.

2019 Discernment Update: Council still hopes to find at least two new members for the Finance Council during the current discernment process.

Other Business: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry O'Connell