

**BDFHSA Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2013**

Opening prayer

Ratification of By-Laws

* Drafts were sent to all BDFHSA members via e-mail
	+ change in fee from $1 per family (with $250 max. per school) to $25.00 per school
* Once approved, the new by-laws will be sent to finance
* New by-laws will be posted on the HSA page of the WNYCatholic School website
* By-Laws were reviewed
	+ Names were taken from all interested in becoming members of Executive Council –Article IV
		- Sr. Carol is responsible for appointing Diocesan Moderator, Diocesan Advisor and Principal Advisor, Sr. Carol has already asked someone to become principal advisor
	+ Article V – Reviewed Colloquium Representatives responsibilities and overall review
	+ Annual Fall meeting – possible event
	+ Optional Regional meeting
	+ Question: Start date for Executive Board?
		- Answer: Article VII – September 1st
	+ Article 6, Section 4 Requirements for Quorum - Question: What happens if less than 40% of the membership is present?
		- Answer: They may conduct business, but cannot pass resolutions of any kind.
	+ Question: What is the term for Ex. Council members?
		- Answer: It is a 1 year term, renewable once
	+ Motion was made to ratify the By-laws 1st by Patti Otto and 2nd by Jason Longo, the ratification passed by majority, none opposed or abstained

Revitalization

* Sr. Carol has met with 10-12 schools and offered to visit any other school to discuss revitalization
* In order to provide parents/students a say in what they want in their school the diocese created a survey
* Survey will be on-line for all to access (Note: Will be available until Dec 1st)
* Survey will be monitored by survey company – very detailed results
* Many tweaks have already been made, members were asked for input

Survey

* Basic info: school name, school location, required facilities that are available, academic programs
* Spent time reviewing STREAM initiative, strengths of Catholic school is parent/guardian involvement
* Per pupil cost is $7,000, what would you be willing to pay for tuition?
* Survey Changes/Additions/Questions:
	+ Language lab – more specific Change to: English/reading lab
	+ Advanced math? Change to Regents? - Yes
	+ Ask how close your school is to the ideal school? – Yes
	+ Ask how involved is parent? – open ended question – Agreed
	+ When reading the results - more involved parents will have more input – agreed
	+ Add: teachers certified in subject they are teaching – agreed
	+ Add: what town is school located, do you live in the same district?
	+ Suggestion: Under Q11 add Catholic values – agreed
	+ Add: students to take survey
	+ Add: list of activities parents are involved in so they can check each
	+ Add: classroom size (open ended)
	+ Student: teacher ratio
	+ Handicap access
	+ How important is parish support
	+ Certified Special Ed. teacher
	+ Instrument instruction (in addition to performance music)
	+ Allergy awareness/nurse on staff
	+ Field trips/out of school experience
	+ Use of community resources
	+ Weekly mass/regular mass offered
	+ Have N/A as an option for each question
* Sr. Carol provided her e-mail address: CCimino@buffalodiocese.org for suggestions
	+ Deadline for more suggestions is tomorrow (Nov 8th)
	+ Don’t want survey to be too long
* Principals are aware of survey will communicate with families
* Suggestion: have Diocese send out letter on letterhead asking to complete survey
* Question: Will we have results by school?
	+ Answer: Possibly, not sure yet, outside firm managing survey
* Question: Can individual schools use survey for own use?
	+ Answer: Principals will have access to share results
* Survey monkey was suggested as option $100 for up to 50 questions.
* Question: How will this survey help if the recommendations from the clusters are due by Nov 15th?
	+ Answer: Final decisions will not have been made by Nov. 15th, the drafts are due by Nov 15th
* Will low participation from a school affect data taken back to clusters?
	+ Answer: No it will not
* Final announcements will be made in mid January waiting for input from survey drafts.
* Announcement will be made publicly
* Can schools print out survey and hold competition/contest/drawing?
	+ Yes, but Sr. Carol does not see the need, survey overall participation will not play into the decisions being made by the clusters

Chris Riso – Education Investment Tax Credit

* Catholic Action Network of the NYS Catholic Conference allows you to get e-mail alerts about advocacy for Catholic Schools. [Join here](http://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/?vvsrc=%2fRegister)
* Tax Credit Bill- turn what you owe in NYS taxes into donation to scholarship funds like BISON
	+ BISON waiting list is still 900 families
	+ Dollar for dollar tax credit (up to 75% of your NYS tax liability)
	+ Individual and corporate taxes included in bill
	+ 50% will go to non-public schools, 50% will go to public schools
	+ Encourage companies and organizations to donate
	+ Bill already passed in Senate 2X’s
	+ 106 members of assembly –need 76 Democrats to support bill, have 74 now
	+ Sean Ryan has not yet supported bill – his district= west side and parts of the Southtowns. Families in his district are encouraged to call or e-mail him to co-sponsor the bill
	+ Hamburg schools- letter sent asking parents to call
	+ [Use handout](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cvwallace%5CDocuments%5CHSA%20Information%5CNovember%207%202014%5CWNY%20State%20Legislative%20Delegation%20-%20Tax%20Credit%20Bill%20Status%20Sept%2025%2C%202013.xlsx) to find out who represents your district. If they have co-sponsored, call or e-mail to thank them for their support, let them know how important it is to you and your school
	+ Political atmosphere is very positive to have bill passed this year, 2014, window will close at the fall 2014 election
	+ Chris asks all to call their Assembly person to thank them for their support
	+ Generally anything that supports non-public schools is not supported
	+ What parents can do? go to [www.investined.org](http://www.investined.org) and register
	+ Question: Can schools set up their own scholarship fund?
		- Answer: We have to pass the bill first.
			* Must be a collaboration of at least 2 schools (note: Sr. Carol is not encouraging the creation of smaller funds as they would dilute the larger BISON fund)
	+ Question: Is there a possible voucher?
		- Answer: We have asked every year, not at this time.
	+ For questions or more info. contact Chris Riso: criso@buffalodiocese.org

Making a Difference Dinner – January 30, 2014

* Fundraising event of more than 1,000 adults who support Catholic education, specifically, the BISON Fund – details at <http://www.frcdb.org/> look for Making a Difference Dinner on the left sidebar

Snowball Dances – January 31, 2014

* Catholic elementary school student fundraising events in support of BISON Fund
	+ One event at St. Greg’s in Williamsville, another at Nativity of Our Lord, Orchard Park
		- Parents from 10-12 schools are collaborating to run event at both schools
		- Students from 10-12 schools participate at each venue
		- 5th & 6th grades go from 6-8PM
		- 7th & 8th grades go from 9-11PM
		- Fee is charged, proceeds go to BISON Fund
		- Contacts: St. Greg’s – Jean Comer, Nativity – Maritza Ruh

John Rosemond

* Coming to WNY Feb 12 & 13, 2014
* Northtowns site: St. John the Baptist , Kenmore
* Southtowns site: To be announced
* Details to follow

Closing comments: Once Executive Board and 3 at-large members are decided, all will be sent an e-mail and list will be posted to HSA page of WNYCatholicSchools website.

Closing Prayer and dismissal

 Submitted by: Jennifer Metzger

 Confirmed and posted by Ginny Wallace