

Mission & Identity Committee Minutes November 30, 2020

In attendance:

Carlos Beltran
Michael Coffey
John Meuler
Fr. Matt Walsh
Larry Siewert
Katy Kaminiski
Ally Beckwith
Vanessa Solis

Excused: Janice Kofler

Vanessa Solis opened the meeting with an inspiring opening prayer.

Each committee member shared their name, professional roles, a fun personal fact about themselves and what they love most about Ignatian Spirituality.

Fr. Rick Abert and Maureen Schuerman shared the overall purpose of the committee and the two priorities for this school year – the Ignatian Identity Review and Ignatian Moments for both the board and other important stakeholder groups including: educators, students, families and alumni

The committee discussed Ignatian Moments. A positive and robust conversation included sharing what the purpose of Ignatian Moments are. What resources are available to us. How do we share information that fits into a shorter timeframe and are digestible when so many aspects of Ignatian Spirituality are deep. It was decided that the committee would provide the Ignatian Moments for the next two years so a topic could be addressed more thoroughly

The group affirmed the initial idea to focus this year on the Universal Apostolic Preferences. A subgroup was formed to work with Fr. Rick on the details: Michael, Vanessa, Larry and Carlos.

The committee moved on to the Ignatian Identity Review. John Meuler, who led the process while still employed with Nativity Jesuit Academy, gave a great summary of this wonderful opportunity to renew the school's Jesuit sponsorship and deepen its commitment to Ignatian education.

The committee's role is to act as the steering committee. The timeline was laid out in the Google Sheet that was shared ahead of time with the group.

Maureen said the majority of the self study was based on survey results from Nativity educators, board, alumni, parents and students. She asked for ideas on how to further engage Board, Board Committees, Educators, Alumni, Parents, Students and Donors beyond the survey in meaningful reflection and input.

We talked about creating groups to discuss:

Who are we as Nativity? Who is Nativity in terms of the families? Who is Nativity to you? What does it mean to be a Jesuit school? A Catholic school?

It was brought up that we need to make sure we tell people who participate what we will do with their input. We also could frame the discussions as a chance to reflect on our mission with a tool that has been provided to us. It is not an obligation, it is an opportunity.

Ally Beckwith advocated that our groups not just be made up of single types of stakeholders like parents, alumni and donors, but instead be a blend all of the groups so each discussion has representatives from each group. She said it is good for us to encounter each other and not be separate from each other.

Vanessa agreed with Ally. Vanessa also felt that families could be educated more about what is the Ignatian Identity Review so they better understand what it is and that it is an intentional process.

The meeting concluded at 5:34 p.m. and the next two meetings are: February 15, 2021 and May 10, 2021.