



St. Joseph Catholic School
128 W. Marshall Street | Rice Lake, WI 54868
715-234-7721

St. Joseph School Executive Board Meeting September 19, 2023

Opening Prayer: Fr Adam

Attendance: Emily Hagen, Jeremy Peterson, Fr. Isaiah Schick, Fr. Adam Laski, Jerry VanDyke, Laura Smith

Approval of Minutes: Jerry will send out April's minutes via email

Pastor's Report: Opportunities are being created for Fr. Isaiah and Fr. Joseph to become actively involved with the students during the school day, at least 2 hrs/wk is the current goal. An offer has been extended to fill the position of Business Manager, acceptance/decline should be submitted within the next week. It would take at least 6 months to transition into the role. In the interim Fr. Adam will work on providing financial reports to the various church committees as well as the Executive Board.

School Report:

Enrollment Updates: Current enrollment: 195 students. Enrollment has increased by ~9%/year over the past 4 years. No attrition in middle school this year, instead a positive net gain. Forecast 205 students for 2024-2025 school year. 4K capped at 22 students and Kindergarten capped at 22-23 students. Capacity of school ~215 students. Need to look at expansion options. V&S provided an estimate last spring that would include building an atrium and additional hallway with 3-4 classrooms off of the south side of the building extending into the current parking lot. Fr. Adam to explore option of utilizing space in the Anglican Church across the street. Discussed the future relocation of the Boys & Girls Club to the Aquatics Center and acquiring the property to expand our campus as another potential option.

This year financial aid through the Wisconsin Parent Choice (\$9500/child, 44 kids enrolled) and Special Needs Scholarship (~\$14,000/child, 10 kids enrolled) provided an increase of nearly \$50,000 to our budget.

Accreditation visit set for Feb. 6-8, 2024

Areas of Interest/Concerns: Revisiting prior proposals to revamp school lunch program to decrease amount of highly processed foods, provide healthier options and the messaging this sends our students. Explore potential cost savings. Discussed starting a gardening project for the school in the spring and ideas of what this could potentially look like (community outreach and involvement, tie into Science and Health curriculums, etc).

Financial Report: No report available at this time

Public Relations/Marketing/Advancement: Over the past 13 months several programs have been developed including Robotics (XIQ tournament hosted by SJS Nov. 11), Spanish, Archery, Band (in house). Emily to write a press release for the robotics tournament. Updates given by Emily Hagen on the Spartan Annual Fund (Matt Birk to put in a plug at the Gala), Sponsor a Classroom (raised \$6000 last year), Christmas Tree fundraiser (this will be the last year) and Gala Update (Goal \$100K). Marketing updates included Spartan Spotlight, monthly media pitches, Gala (Theme: Pursuing excellence and building the kingdom of God, Matt Birk is featured speaker and will provide 4HG talk to students the Friday before).

Closing Prayer: Fr. Isaiah

Next Meeting - October 17, 2023

Our Mission:

To grow in faith, value family, excel in academics and follow Christ in service to others within the framework of our Catholic faith.