

St. Joseph School Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2024

Opening Prayer:

Led by Jerry Van Dyke

Attendance:

Fr. Josephi, Jerry Van Dyke, Emily Hagen, Jeremy Peterson, Fr. Isiah Schick, Lisa Leach, Chris Janssen, Fr. Fr. Isaiah (arrived later), Peggy Scheoenfuss

Minutes: September meeting minutes approved by Emily Hagen and seconded by Lisa Leach.

Superintendent Meeting Attendance Discussion: Peggy was at the meeting as she annually attends at least one meeting of each board for schools in the diocese. She offered her experienced insight throughout the meeting.

Pastor Report:

No formal report was given at this time

Principal's Report:

- **Enrollment Update:** Jerry informed the board that enrollment at the school was 200 students, the biggest it had been since 1991. This while was something exciting for the school and community is something that is requiring more serious looks into addressing building needs. The specific most pertinent needs included:
 - A dedicated space for art since there was no art room but more of a traveling art cart that spilled over into the teachers lounge.
 - Dedicated office space for the intervention teachers was needed
 - Storage is a continual problem including for robotics supplies and fields
- **Options/Ideas for Meeting Building Needs Discussed:**
 - Possible large 4K group in the next year. This means we could possibly end the 3rd grade program and do two separate 4k classrooms using the 3k room as a second 4k room
 - Serious discussion of hiring an outside company to do a feasibility study to see if the data suggests that building or adding on to addressing the needs of the school would be possible. Several companies had been suggested possibly costing between \$50,000-\$100,000.
 - Chris has reached out to the school district to let them know that they might be interested in the Boys and Girls Club building across the street (owned by the school district now).
 - Jerry has looked into portable classroom rentals which was expensive

Financial Report: Led by Chris Janssen.

- Chris reported that the parishes were now paying a lower percentage of the gap subsidy between the actual cost to run the school and tuition that they have been in some time. Currently parishes were subsidizing \$134,000. Peggy warned that even though the school was good financially right now, it was important that the parishes do subsidize a certain percent of this as part of the identity of the school.
- Chris reported a projected income surplus. 49 students in the school currently received the voucher to attend.

Public Relations/Marketing/Advancement Report: Led by Emily Hagen

- Article on the collaboration between St. Joes and the public schools was discussed. Peggy commented how this strong relationship was not necessarily the norm in many communities.
- Emily spoke of how the Black and Gold sponsorship was up and that Michael Rainer was the keynote giving a message about "Protecting Our House"
- Commented on the previous success of the Week of Giving for advancement that would run again in May this year
- Emily would be speaking at the Catholic School Center of Excellence Summit on October 16th in St. Paul on advancement of rural Catholic Schools
- Fr. Isaiah discussed ways we might reach out to the Latino community to bring more into the school community

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 12th at 6:00 pm

Closing Prayer: This was led by Fr. Joseph

Adjournment: