

The third regular meeting for the 2020-2021 school year of the St. Joseph School, Board of Education, also known as the School Board, was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm virtually using Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

School Board Members Present: Mrs. Faith Dobson, Mrs. Rebecca Olinger, Mrs. Deirdre Savarese, Mr. John Alfano, Mrs. Amy Day, Mrs. Alicia Renard, Mr. John Reisenweber, Mrs. Trisha Bankert, Mrs. Corrinne Eck, Fr. Steve Fernandes. Mrs. Erin Maiolino, Mrs. Kristy Baker.

Commented [FD1]: Add Mrs. Alicia Renard

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Fr. Steve Fernandes offered the St. Joseph Prayer.

The meeting started with Faith letting Mrs. Eck know that the Board is so thankful and proud of the great work the staff are doing. Faith asked what we as a Board can do for the faculty to thank them for all of their hard work during this unprecedented time. Mrs. Eck and Kristy stated that they are open for us doing a Faculty Appreciation. Kristy also noted that each month the faculty is given a luncheon or some sort of appreciation from a specific grade.

Mrs. Eck asked the Voting Board members to read the Middle States Report. The Middle States Report has been available to parents in the past. The Board is tasked with reading this report. Once we are all familiar with the plan, Mrs. Eck is interested in our feedback.

Commented [FD2]: Amy – the Middle States Report has been available to parents on our website in the past, although I was unable to locate it on the current site. I'm not sure there are plans to send it out to parents. The clarification here is that the board is tasked with reading the Middle States report, starting with the 'Plan' on page 57 (which significantly shortens the document 😊). Once we are all familiar with the plan, Mrs. Eck is interested in our related feedback. We will likely want to create a feedback loop for this topic and add it to our March meeting agenda.

Finance Report- Mr. John Alfano

Thanks for putting together a forecast for us. This report is similar to the last report, which is a very good thing. The current trend puts the school in a very good position financially as we still remain in the black. December numbers are not out yet but they are looking very similar to November's numbers. The revenue is more than expenses.

Commented [FD3]: Need clarification here – what continues to rise? Contributions?

The second page of the report compared last November to this November. Revenue was the same as it was last November. The school expenses are way down, all hard work everyone contributing is doing the job. Being frugal is really paying off. We expect this to continue. The Church numbers appear to be the same, they are holding their own as well even with COVID and less attendance at mass. Everyone is doing a great job pulling their weight. Christmas mass attendance 1/3 what it normally is however we have still been pretty consistent with the money that is coming in.

The Church is applying 2nd part of PPP loans, which were a life saver last year. This is all good news and we continue to remain positive that we will get the 2nd part of the loan!

Development-Mrs. Kristy Baker

Kristy provided a short Recap of Catholic School Week. There will be no battle of the buildings this year due to Covid-19.

On Monday February 1, 2021 Mrs. Eck will be doing Story time with Pre-School children however this year it will be a ZOOM reading and will occur during the school day. We are really using this as a marketing tool to capture information of new families that may be interested in enrolling their children

On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the school will be doing a service project at the local hospitals, standing outside with signs thanking them for their dedicated and continuous support during the pandemic.

A luncheon will be provided to the teachers/faculty during Catholic Schools Week as in the past.

Avalanche Express will be held at Heritage Hills on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Kristy asked if there were any board members who wanted to do a video of the job they hold. She is putting together a career videos for the students to replace this event that would normally take place at the school. She will also be opening this up to any other parents if they are interested in participating.

Kristy will be asking student volunteers to write a review about what they like about the school. For the little kiddos they will be doing a one sentence writing with a picture of "Why I love SJY". She would really love to have a few kids do a video and run with it.

Kristy is always looking for parents to do an Op-Ed. This would be particularly helpful if done by someone the week of Catholic Schools Week.

There are now 21 Students enrolled in Kindergarten now which is a change from the previous report.

Commented [FD4]: Students enrolled

We are possibly going back to a half day Pre-K as well as a full day. This announcement and more details will be coming out to parents shortly.

In regard to the Annual Fund we have already reached our goal and it has been now changed to \$40,000. An Impact Report will be going out soon. Deirdre and Kristy will touch base and put out another reminder letter to those who not donated and those who have donated in the past but may have not had the chance to donate this time around. Thank you again to Deirdre for composing the letter that went out to everyone a few months ago.

During the first week of March Kristy would like to do something to support the Kitchen As everyone is aware all children are receiving free breakfast/lunch so we would like to do something to give back. The kitchen is in need of a glass shield and additional tables for the cafeteria. Kristy has decided to do a fundraiser and ask parents to donate the dollar amount one might spend in a month in the absence of the current free lunch offering.

Commented [FD5]: The dollar amount one might spend in a month in the absence of the current free lunch offering

Kristy has reached out to families who live in high traffic areas to put signs in their yard that say "Enroll Now". She has also been in contact with all the families that have left SJY and sent them a Christmas card as well as an Open Enrollment letter in hopes that they are interested in coming back.

Race for Education is still scheduled, and we are hopefully that the event can still happen. It is the last Friday of April.

Principals Report- Mrs Eck.

Mrs. Eck started by thanking all the Board members for their continuous support throughout the school year, especially in this uncertain time where Covid has presented us with some challenges.

Commented [FD6]: Need to finish statement

COVID Update- She is so proud we are halfway through school and still open. Overall, the virus has not affected as it has other schools in the area. So far, there have been 3 adults that were positive for COVID. Thankfully most of these came over break when it didn't really affect us as we weren't in school.

The travel restrictions have upset some parents however we are sticking by the Diocesan guidelines in relation to quarantine upon return from vacation.

Commented [FD7]: Related to quarantine upon return from vacation

The school has taken the preliminary steps to get the teachers vaccinated.

Mrs. Eck is hoping next year we may only need to wear masks till the spring 2022 and the guidelines will be relaxed as more people are getting vaccinated.

In regards to the Re-Opening Plan there have not been many changes except changing the quarantine limit from 14 days to 10 days. This was based on Dept. of Health and CDC.

We regained at least 2 virtual kids back to school.

So far we have 217 students registered for next school year. Two grades are closed and there are waiting lists. There is currently only 1 Kindergarten, but we expect to gain enough students to support two as registrations continue over the summer.

Huge shout out to Kristy for her work to fundraise money and bring in more kiddos to SJY.

STAR testing first occurred back in the fall. In November, results came out and we were planning to send out the results right after. As a faculty, they wondered how parents would feel seeing the STAR testing results and report card data not matching up. The results of the 2nd STAR testing will now be sent out with Progress Reports in January. We are now able to compare the STAR tests from fall to the present. The ITBS test was replaced by STAR testing. STAR test can also help us see how we compare to other schools in the nation. This Diocese pushes the bar up to 50% as opposed to the 40% outside the diocese.

Math is an area we are working on improving. A new math curriculum was delivered and it should be ready very soon to be given out to teachers.

Commented [FD8]: What is this?

The State of the School will be happening this year but as with everything else it will be held virtually. Mrs. Eck will be taking a video that will be released/posted on the website. Mrs. Eck asked our thoughts about how to do this this year? Normally we would have a financial report however she isn't sure how to go about this year. She is planning on putting out a Google Doc form to parents so they can ask questions and concerns and then Mrs. Eck will address them via video. Mrs. Eck asked if we as a Board would each be willing to take a subject and speak on it. John offered to do finances and all other Board members offered to help out wherever needed. The video will address finance, faith, volunteer opportunities, COVID Relief.

Becca suggested trying to be creative in ways we can help out the teachers. Ie. Cutting out things for them or sending in things they may need.

It was also suggested we upload a video to the LIVE mass and advertise the school.

Geography Bee is held virtually this year. Mrs. Eck stated the children and faculty are getting accustomed to doing this differently and that we will work hard so that the children can still have a sense of normalcy and participate in the things they have in previous years.

Faith asked if we will be having the Knight Readers book event this year? Yes, going on this year. The book will be released in February. This year it is a nonfiction book and all of the teachers have been involved and are very excited about the event.

Spelling bee will also take place in February.

Virtual Talent Show will possibly happen in March.

A few Board Members asked about the overall mood in the school. Mrs. Eck stated there is a sense of calmness and peace throughout the school. The teachers in the upper halls switching has worked out really well. It is nice to see all Reading/Writing done by 1 teacher which has seemed to please the children. Mrs. Pugh has embraced teaching all the Reading/Writing. She is planning on doing a 40 Book Challenge with the children. They will be required to read different genres of books throughout the school year. She is very excited about this, as is Mrs. Eck.

Closing Prayer by Fr Steve and the meeting ended at 8:30pm.