

The fourth 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, March 11, 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, Mr. Matthew Pitman, Mrs. Trisha Bankert, Mrs. Corrinne Eck, Fr. Steve Fernandes. Mrs. Erin Maiolino, Mrs. Kristy Baker.

Commented [FD1]: Add Mrs. Alicia Renard

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm with Father Steve offering the opening prayer.

The meeting started with a finance Report by John Alfano/Erin Maiolino. John stated that the budget for the school was right on track and that the revenue was greater than the expenses. He anticipated that Expenses would catch up as Tuition receipts do not go through June but Salary Payments do. The school is currently \$35,000 in the Black (Revenues over Expenses) through January, but anticipate that the amount the Parish will need to support the school will be under the budgeted amount. John attributes this to the hard work of our school staff, the finance committee's dedication to analyzing the budget regularly, Kristy working towards maintaining the current enrollment and reducing overall expenses. The reduction in expenses is mainly due to retaining the enrollment, a reduction in the salaries/benefits this year and a part due to COVID. Some non-operating money from the savings was used in January to purchase Chromebooks which has since been reimbursed by the LIU.

Kristy Baker provided a Marketing/Development update.

The Annual Fund has surpassed the goal and we have now increased the goal to \$45,000. A huge thank you to Deirdre for pushing to increase this goal. Kristy remains positive that we can surpass this goal as well. Kristy anticipates the donations will slow down a little bit. Second letters were sent out recently giving a brief overview of SJY's accomplishments this past year during the pandemic. These letters were sent to those who have donated in the past three years

We have 23 new families coming next year. Kristy continues to give tours on off hours. Next years 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes have a waiting list. At this time, we are hoping to have a separate Pre-K Am class added.

Faith asked; "Where is the interest coming from and is there potential to open up classroom for 1<sup>st</sup> grade?" Kristy anticipates there will be a big increase in enrollment for K that will come in around June. Mrs. Eck stated that right now in order to accommodate the class size she will be looking at shifting teachers around as opposed to hiring new teachers. Should the enrollment continue to increase like it is, then there is a possibility of hiring a new teacher but right now that is not an option. It's likely next year's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be constricted.

The increase enrollment is coming from parishioners and the relationship we are building with the church. The school continues to advertise in the weekly bulletin and reach out to Religions Ed families. Having the children attend school all year, five days a week and never having to shut down due to COVID has made a huge impact. The community and parishioners are seeing this and it appears to be a very

positive thing for the SJY community. We can all be proud of the hard work we have put in to keep the children in school and especially keeping everyone safe and healthy. Having small class sizes has also contributed to the reason why families are now looking to enroll.

Deirdre questioned if the families that enrolled in SJY this year are planning to continue to stay since it appears the reason for enrolling in the first place was due to proposing to open the doors 5 days a week in the fall 2020.? Mrs. Eck responded yes, all the current families have reenrolled for next year. This is great news for SJY.

Race for Education fundraising is starting to go digital. This was a gradual start by sending out the letters to families and requiring them to fill out a Google Docs form for t-shirt sizes and sponsors. This makes things easier for Kristy to get all of her data/information. Corporate sponsors are currently at \$9,800. Wow, great, thank you Kristy! She has reached out to all those who had been corporate sponsors in the past and has even acquired new corporate sponsors. On race day everyone will be required to wear masks and social distance. Grandparents Day will not happen and there will be no lunch offered this year. Kristy still believes we will be able to do the raffles, have parents in attendance and be able to collect money.

The Cafeteria Campaign was very successful. We received enough donations to purchase food shields and 2 new tables. Kristy will be meeting with Beth Fives and a committee will be formed to go over what is needed and the logistics that will go into getting the kiddos back to eating in the cafeteria.

Father/Daughter Event is happening this year as it was postponed last year. The event will be April 24. We are struggling with finding someone to take the lead with this. After a brief discussion, Faith and Trish have graciously decided to head the event. John Reisenweber volunteered to help build or set up for this event.

There is a committee started and the Mother/Son event will occur on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme will be The Amazing Race.

Mrs. Eck provided the Principals Report

The State of the School was a success, we can't be sure how many families actually watched the video however it seemed as if it was well received. The way it was done was different than in the past but considering the current pandemic it was a great way to get the news out to parents about the state of SJY.

CARES Funding is Federally funded money. There were 7 schools, the LIU and York County that gave money to SJY. \$49,300 that was used for more Chromebooks, licenses, iPads, iPad cases, laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, projectors, voice amplifiers, technology carts, PPE equipment, online subscriptions and wages. We are gracious for this donation as it was able to give us the funds we needed during this difficult time.

The SJY Reopening/Safety Plan remains in effect. The most recent revision that has been made was done so on March 5, 2021. This lifted the 10-day quarantine for students who travel outside of PA. Mrs. Eck noted that the 10-day travel ban was really starting to impact the students who were missing days. The teachers worked really hard to send work home with the students and provide them with the materials they needed while out. The newest COVID case was reported late today.

The LIU has been a site for teachers in York County to get vaccines. Our teachers were scheduled for today, March 11, 2021 to have this done. This included 15 faculty/staff.

Middle States Report- 2021 is our halfway point and someone will be coming to conduct a visit to the school in the Fall. At that time, an updated report will then be done after that visit. Mrs. Eck anticipates we will have to re-write the goal for testing since we have moved from the IBTS testing to the STAR testing. Math is the high focus area right now as we tend to have lower scores in this area. Even with the Math scores still needing work, there still appears to be an improvement in Math since the beginning of the year. We need to keep in mind that 50% is the average and with most scores being well above that, we are still considered at or above the goal. The faculty is in the process of looking for a new math program. Teachers are going to be reviewing a few programs to see which they feel is best to purchase and implement.

Both Faith and Alicia had further questions about the Math program.

The Diocese has a committee of individuals who review and evaluate the programs. Each school can then make a choice as to which program they use. The curriculum choices address the Pennsylvania state standards and the math programs are approved by the diocese.

The board briefly spoke about Google Classroom and how far we have come since last year at this time. There is a limited number of five FID days a year. We have just used up our last FID day. Virtual learning days are days where the children are required to attend ZOOM meetings with their teacher and complete the required work.

As far as the Writing piece of the Middle States report, we are at 95% (well above goal) and we continue to initiate the writing strategies introduced by John Collins during his on-campus workshop in the Spring of 2019. The kids are writing all the time. The F.U.N. program begun in 2019-2020 and vocabulary workshop put in place in the upper all grades have fulfilled the phonics and spelling goals. Mrs. Eck mentioned that we need to increase the amount of non-fiction writing pieces as we do not currently have data on this goal.

The Religion piece of the Middle States Report continues as we have been using the weekly Mass journals. The monthly virtues were done a little differently this year due to the need to change the way teachers taught due to COVID. We look forward to getting back to the monthly virtues and charter improvement next year. All of the grades have a retreat scheduled except 1<sup>st</sup> grade. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade retreats were all virtual due to COVID. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class will continue with their retreat to prepare them for their First Holy Communion.

It is important to note that we have certainly met and exceeded our goals. Mrs. Eck stated there are pieces of the Middle States that we need to improve on however considering the challenges that we have been faced with the past year, we definitely should be proud of our accomplishments as a school.

In addition, Mrs. Eck stated that it would be important to have a few or all Board Members involved in the Middle States Report Planning Committee. Any member who is interested reach out to Faith.

Faith closed out the meeting going over the expectations of the Board as we close the school year. We will all be completing the Principals Review. As we look ahead to 2021-2022 school year, Faith asked that the Board Members pray and decide if they want to continue to serve. She will reach out to everyone prior to May meeting to get our final decisions.

Closing Prayer by Father Steve ended the meeting at 8:01 pm.