The second regular meeting for the 2021-2022 school year of the St. Joseph School, Board of Education, also known as the School Board, was held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at St. Joseph’s Church. The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer from Father Steve.

School Board Members Present: Mrs. Faith Dobson, Mr. John Alfano, Mrs. Amy Day, Mr. John Reisenweber, Mrs. Trish Banker, Mrs. Rachel Appleby, Mrs. Kristen Beecher. Non-voting members: Mrs. Corrinne Eck, Fr. Steve Fernandes, Mrs. Kristy Baker.

Faith and Mrs. Eck thanked Kristy Baker for the wonderful Veterans Day video that she put together for the website so that all could see the events that occurred at school for Veterans.

Finance Update- John Alfano presented the finance update. Currently, the revenue is at 40%, which is due in part to those parents who pay the tuition upfront in August. This number will continue to rise with the upcoming fundraising in the winter and spring.

The expenses are right in line with the past two years. There is nothing at this point to be concerned about. One thing that may change is the fact that inflation is up so the things we may need in the future might rise due to that; such as supplies needed for the school/staff.

John Reisenweber asked about the large withdrawal on the Finance Report. John Alfano stated this was for the refrigerator in the cafeteria that needed replaced. It won’t affect the overall budget as that money will be put back onto the account at a later time. John Alfano pointed out that the cafeteria and food money are not included in the school budget as this is a separate account.

Question regarding food prices rising and things not always being available. Mrs. Eck stated that Mrs. Fives has been able to switch things around by going to Aldi to get things or making changes to the menu. So far this has been working out.

Development Report- Kristy Baker-

Fundraising

SPE Special Purpose Entity. Individual must contribute a minimum of $3,500 yearly.

The School Store items are always available in Kristy’s office. Items include: Water bottles, Umbrellas, Lunch boxes. This is different than the Spirit wear event going on. The Spirit wear includes clothes. The school gets back a little bit of money for each item ordered however it is a good marketing tool to get SJY name out in the community. The Box Tops have fizzled out now that you are required to scan the item and the receipt of purchase.

A cafeteria fundraiser will be held again this year. The kitchen, is in need of a new refrigerator. The hope is that parents will donate money since all children are receiving free breakfast and lunch again this year.

Giving Tuesday is November 30, 2021. Kristy stands out front in the car rider line and takes checks from parents who wish to donate. When someone donates, a picture is taken with the #unselfie SJY frame and posted to social media. The board generally gives and matches someone’s gift. The hope is to raise $3,500. Last year, we raised $3,260.

Two big upcoming events include the Indoor Golf on February 25, 26. The 26th is an adult only event. Donation baskets are raffled off at this time and the adults can have a night out and get a first glimpse at the course. Saturday the 26th families come to participate. This was a fun event in 2020 and we look forward to raising money again this year. Kristy is looking for parents to volunteer to help with this committee. The committee generally meets 4x a year.

In addition, the Race for Education is looking for volunteers. This committee meets 6x a year. This is a very big fundraiser for the school. Both this and the Indoor Golf go to the Annual Fund which helps to cover the cost of tuition. Grandparents Day will be held this year on the same day as Race for Education.

Kristen Beecher asked about marketing and she has offered her assistance to help Kristy with this as she does this for her full-time job. Kristy welcomed any help she could get with this.

Catholic school week end of January. Kristy is looking for someone to write an op ed to be submitted to York Daily Record/York Dispatch and for families to speak at every mass.

Principals report- Mrs. Eck

The mask mandate remains in effect at this point. On a weekly basis data is provided to the diocese and state through surveys. Currently there have been 15 COVID cases, 4 adults and 11 children. This is almost a weekly occurrence. 80% of the staff are vaccinated as are about ½ a dozen students. The student vaccination number is expected to go up now that they are offering the vaccine for children.

Reopening plan has been updated to reflect that vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine. Contact tracing does not need to be completed in K-12 schools where masks are worn. This is a blessing as the upper hall would be extremely difficult to track since the children are always moving. Parents have been very good about being cautious with keep sick kids home. So far, we are blessed that there have been no contacts that occurred in school.

Reregistration progress has begun and continues until November 19th for those who have children enrolled in SJY. The Preschool will remain the same with a combined ½ day and full day until the numbers are high enough to support two programs. The registration fee has increased. This is now a set price for all families and includes registration, a technology fee, PIC dues and school supply materials. This is different that what was done in the past however the hope is that parents won’t have to send in money throughout the year for those little things (agendas, ear buds).

STAR Testing – During the Information night on November 3, a presentation was given on this testing. This is the second year of testing so teachers are more familiar with it. Teachers shared and reviewed the data and FUN groups were created in the Lower Hall. In the Upper Hall it is called Level Up and students meet 2x a week.

The new math program has been initiated, called Ready Math. There is an app that the students will be able to use at home to practice their math facts. This is called iReady and it is a combination of Sumdog and IXL. During the Information night teachers also gave an overview of the new Math program.

EANS Funding- (Emergency Aide for Non-public Schools) -This grant was approved for over $300,000 with restrictions in spending. A 2nd grant is to be coming from the LIU and we should hear about it very soon. The school is looking to get technology in each classroom as opposed to all classes signing out a cart or sharing a lab.

We are currently in hiring process through the LIU12 of an additional instructional support teacher and a nurse. This will be coming from the money from the 2nd grant. The nurse will be part time 9am-2pm.The hiring process is through LIU. John Alfano asked once grant ends, then what, will we lose the nurse or the money needed to pay one. The grant for this will cover the cost of the nurse till end of this year and all of next year. Online subscriptions, water fountains, technology cart, projectors.

Discover Catholic School Week was November 15-19. Several things went on this week such as the Book Fair which was a Catholic/secular themed this year. Information was ITL and available at the Information session. Pastries with parents and mass was held on Friday, November 19th. There was also a mass for fourth grade father figures. The re—registration deadline for SJY families was November 19th as well.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer from Father Steve at 8:39.