

St. Joseph School Board Meeting

April 17th, 2024 6:30 P.M. (In School Classroom)

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Kellie Antes at 6:30 P.M and begins with an opening prayer.

II. Roll call

Present: Joel Hoffman, Kellie Antes, Doug Klein, Ericka Piggott, Aaron Schneider, Nick Frechen, Rick Stump, Michelle Schafer, Autumn Spitzley and Erin Kowatch.

Absent: Nick Lawless, Susan Craft, Ron Simon and Alyssa Frechen

Guests: Principal Ryan Weber and Dave Faber

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda is made by Aaron Schneider and seconded by Rick Stump.

IV. Mr. Dave Faber, Diocese of Grand Rapids Superintendent

Dave Faber is a guest at the board this evening. Dave speaks to the board to encourage us as a board of limited jurisdiction. Dave speaks about the wonderful and passionate teachers that we have at St. Joseph.

Dave comments that it is encouraging to see enrollment increased at St. Joseph over the past five years. Dave looked at the program effectiveness survey given to parents and staff, and commented that on all 42 questions given to parents, all results were above the average for the diocese. Dave also commented on the high percentage of parents who indicated they would recommend our school to others. Dave comments that he is encouraged to see baptisms for St. Joseph parish are also up.

Dave looked into the survey that the school board completed together, specifically at the results in which the board indicated “not evident” as an answer. One example of this answer concerned the communication between the school board and the diocese. Dave comments on the communication between the school and the diocese through a kickoff event at the beginning of the year, and the board participating in the diocese school board summit each year. Dave indicates that there are many ways that the parish is collaborating with the diocese.

Dave also commented on the board being unsure about if we assessed ourselves. He indicated that the survey the board completes accomplishes this.

Dave shows a video in which Bishop Walkowiak speaks about the new 5-year strategic plan for the diocese.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the March minutes is made by Rick Stump and seconded by Aaron Schneider.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Principal's Report

Mr. Ryan Weber presented the Principal's Report. Mr. Weber provided a copy of the report to all board members.

Some key points:

Middle School Enrollment - next Wednesday, five prospective new students will be visiting. It is still up in the air on the number that will be attending next year.

31aa Update - The school has received these funds

Student Happenings

- a. First Grader: had the opportunity to sing in the choir for the first time.
- b. First Communion: The second graders were blessed with receiving Jesus for the first time and beautiful weather.
- c. Reconciliation - The 8th graders will be Confirmed on Sunday, April 28, 2024 in Grand Rapids.

NWEA Assessment window is now open.

Field Trips/Retreats

- a. 8th grade trip - April 26, 2024
- b. grades K-1 - Mount Pleasant Discovery
- c. grades 2-5 - Frederick Meijer Garden - 2/3 - Butterflies and 4/5 - Inner Artists- Grand Rapids
- d. grades 4-5 - Visit 8th Circuit Court Judge Suzanne Hoseth-Kreeger for a tour of the courthouse in Ionia
- e. grades 6-8 - Royal Scott with CCRESA

VII. Business Action Items

- A. Mike and Leah Kramer stepped up to run the St. Joseph raffle, and the license was just received.
- B. Fund-A-Need – The idea is shared about using fund-a-need to support our volunteers in the school.
- C. Bathroom remodel project update - Nick Frechen reached out to an architect for more detail and found that any work beyond simple updates would require passing ADA requirements. Nick has found that two fixtures per bathroom would meet occupancy requirements.
- D. Erin Kowatch had stickers printed as promotional items for St. Joseph school.

IX. Business New

A. Michelle Schafer presented to the school board her thoughts about using the school as a resource for families in the community. Specifically Michelle has the idea for the school to support and assist homeschool students. Michelle has been brainstorming the idea of homeschool students being offered classes on a part time basis. This would also be a source of extra income for the school. Michelle will be looking more into this idea.

B. Autumn Spitzley wonders if an update can be put in the bulletin on happenings of the school Ryan commented that he would need to communicate with Father before communicating to the parish.

X. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee: none
- B. Marketing Committee: none
- C. Development Committee: none
- D. Strategic Planning: none

XI. Suggested Items for Next Month's Meeting

None

XII. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 @ 6:30 pm – In Classroom

XIII. Closing Prayer

Kellie Antes closes the meeting with a prayer

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting is made by Autumn Spitzley and seconded by Nick Frechen at 7:45 pm.