

Saratoga Central Catholic School
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
4:30 PM on February 26, 2025

Present: Dan Kumlander (Chair), Christopher Signor (Principal), Lisa Moser, Jeff Pompa, Steve Benton, Rose Place, Mike Lenz (via phone)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kumlander at 4:43 PM

Mr. Signor led the BOT in an opening prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 18, 2024 regular meeting were distributed for review prior to this meeting. Mr. Pompa made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Kumlander. A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

State of the School (Mr. Signor):

Tuition: The tuition has been set for the next school year. The High School tuition increases by 5%, from \$11,500 to \$12,000 and Middle School Tuition increases 7%, from \$8,700 to \$9,300. The projected cost to educate per student is \$13,000. The cost to educate has been decreased about \$2,000 in the last two years due to numerous cost-cutting and cost-saving measures that have been implemented.

A vote was taken to accept the tuition increases, as detailed above, which vote passed unanimously.

St. Isaac Jogues Professional Development Meeting occurred today regarding Finances. Tiffany Farrell, Dan Kumlander and Chris Signor attended. The focus was on finances and strategies to “keep your house in order” by operating within a budget or a surplus, if possible. Other topics reviewed were that salaries and benefits should be covered by tuition. We are compliant with this. Mr. Signor reported his impression that our school appeared to be in the best standing of most, if not all, of the schools in the Diocese regarding finances, overall. Mr. Signor also reported that DILT (Diocese Investment Loan Trust) funds, which have been a prior source of funding for Diocese schools, have dried up because the Diocese is in receivership due to bankruptcy proceedings.

Budget:

Mr. Signor reported that our budget is based on 214 students (132 high school and 83 middle school). We have 85% re-enrollment so far. This is a higher percentage than at this time last year.

The budget has set aside \$327,0000 this year for tuition assistance.

Next year's budget process has begun. A meeting will be set with Dan Jeram from the Diocese. Regarding salaries, our biggest budget expense, we already know the cost for the step increases for next year. We do not know the health insurance rates for next year yet.

Staffing:

Mr. Signor reported that he does not anticipate any cuts. He expects to add a ½ time Chemistry teacher, to retain a ½ time Art teacher, that a ½ time English position will become full-time, and that a little re-shuffling will occur. This is still being worked out. The timeline for staffing notifications are as follows: 4/18/25 Letters of intent are due from the teachers as to their employment plans for the next school year; 5/15/25 – Any separation letters will be sent from Administration; and 6/15/25 – Administration will send out offer letters to teachers for the up-coming school year.

Committee Reports:

Advancement (Ms. Moser (chair)):

Gala: Ms. Moser noted that the Gala grossed \$151,790, with a net of \$131,905, not including the cash raffle. The cash raffle will take place last month.

Golf Tournament: Ms. Moser noted that the golf tournament is also upcoming and planning is underway.

Other:

A meeting is scheduled regarding the potential bathroom renovations.

March 1 – A new pastor is expected to be named for St Peter's.

Enrollment (Heather Bott submitted a written report):

- Ms. Bott submitted a written report which was reviewed by the Board. No further action taken.

Mission Enhancement (no report)

Finance Report: (Mr. Kumlander, Chair)

Mr. Kumlander reviewed the current status with this year's budget as far as revenue and expenditures. In sum, we are ahead of this time last year by about \$44,000.

Mr. Kumlander reiterated that we budgeted \$97,000 in NYS MST funds but we only received \$38,000, which is a shortfall of \$58,000. The reason for the difference was a misunderstanding by the auditors awarding the money regarding criteria eligibility. They audited more intently this year and determined that we were only entitled to a portion of the funds that we thought we would receive based on prior years' awards.

Mr. Kumlander reported that we received a \$20,000 donation toward the new Honda Odyssey. The Diocese paid \$16,000. Surplus federal employee retention funds were used for the remainder of the cost.

Mr. Kumlander reported that cafeteria revenues are up \$22,000 through January which is 62% over last year. Profit is up by \$23,000.

Buses: Mr. Kumlander reported that the total cost to date has been \$48,000 for upkeep, insurance, athletic trips & student transportation. The budgeted amount was \$47,000. At this time last year, we had spent \$56,000 so this is a decrease. In 2023, to date we spent \$36,000. This raises the question of whether it was more economical to rent buses. This will be examined further as time goes on. Also, more internal controls on bus costs/use have been implemented so we will see how this impacts the numbers.

Facilities (Mr. Pompa, chair)

Mr. Pompa reported that we have 4 valves leaking in the boiler. Troy Boiler came to investigate whether any National Grid grants might be available. We received quotes from 2 providers, ranging from \$5,000 to \$11,000. One other provider did not show up to provide a quote as expected, and a fourth wanted payment just to come out and provide an estimate.

Nomination Committee (Jeff Pompa, Chair)

Mr. Pompa reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.

Old Business

Mr. Signor reported that the Athlete Suspension/ineligibility policy regarding grades is being re-booted.

New Business (none)

Closing Prayer: Mr. Signor led the BOT in a closing prayer.

There being no further business, Ms. Place made a motion at 612 PM to adjourn, which motion was seconded by Mr. Pompa and passed unanimously.