

Saratoga Central Catholic School

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Central Catholic School Board was called to order at 5:33pm. Principal Signor led the opening prayer.

Present:

Sandy Blanchard – Chair, Michael Kondratowicz – Vice Chair, Bill Darcy – Secretary, Chris Signor – School Principal, Terrill Brown, Jeff Pompa, Dan Kumlander, Nikki Hartmann.

Absent:

Fr. James Ebert, Lisa Moser.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the January 24, 2023 minutes by Dan Kumlander and seconded by Nikki Hartmann.

State of the School Report – (Chris Signor, Principal)

- Enrollment is currently at 184 students.
- Reenrollment of current students is at 90%
- A recent demographic study of the student body shows that 33% are Saratoga Springs residents, 83% are Catholic, and 46% are Saratoga Springs School District residents.
- Open house slots are filling up quickly.
- Open house date is March 16, 2023 – 6pm – 8pm. All Board members are asked to assist.
- The homeless shelter issue remains open.

Committee Reports:

Advancement and Development (Lisa Moser)

- In Lisa's absence, Sandy Blanchard stated that the Gala was very successful and brought in \$29K over the estimated budget.
- The dollar value over budget cannot go to a specific project and needs to be directed to the deficit.
- Plans for the Golf Tournament will begin after the March 16 open house.

Enrollment & Retention (Nikki Hartmann)

- The "Saints for a Day" program is scheduled for March 8, 2023 and will bring 4th graders from St. Clements School to SCC where they will engage in a full day of lessons and activities that has been specially planned for them.
- A reminder that the Open House is scheduled for Thursday March 16, 2023 from 6pm – 8pm. All Board members are encouraged to attend and participate.
- The committee has discussed the topic of comparative research in an effort to track trends in student interests. Interests of the committee were topics such as library/technology, lab/media centers, AP offerings and true outcome cost benefit vs. Partnerships with ACC. Nicole Mulkern will be invited to the next meeting. A comparative research survey will be sent to students and parents with the goal of tracking trends and changes for future planning. Principal Signor notes that this program will assist in our Cognia accreditation.
- The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 1, 2023

Mission Enhancement (Terrill Brown)

- An update was provided with substantial input from Pat Douglas and included...
 - Peer Ministry – 4 retreats have been completed for grades 6-9.
 - There are 4 peer ministers that will be seniors next year and a recruitment of new peer ministers for next year will begin in May.
 - Upcoming peer ministry retreats for grades 10 – 12 are planned with the 10th grade hosting Mr. Tom Cronin from the Albany Diocese as guest speaker, an 11th grade trip to Siena college to work with the college campus ministry team and a senior class overnight retreat in June..
 - The Boces prom will be held on Friday May 12 in the parish center. The junior class will be planning this event with Pat Douglas.
 - Living Stations of the Cross will be presented by the senior class on April 4th at 9:30am – all are welcome to attend.
 - May Crowning will be held at the first Friday mass on May 5 – all are welcome to attend.
 - Baccalaureate Mass is scheduled for June 22, 2023 at 6pm at St. Clements Church.
 - Potential upcoming field trips – NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) and The March for Life in Washington DC.

- The student run “Community Service Club” has been meeting regularly and hosting events such as breakfast with Santa and the Birthday in a Bag program for the Franklin Community Center. Students are currently engaged in a program known as “The Giving Circle”, which aids in education throughout Africa.
- The seventh grade class will take part in a reflection of each weeks Gospel reading throughout Lent.
- The 8th grade class has recently completed an Old Testament Bible reading project which includes telling of bible stories in their own words with an emphasis on critical thinking.

Finance and Financial Aid (Michael Kondratowicz)

- A review of the January Financial Statements addressed pending questions. It was noted that we are over budget on a year to date basis in both substitute teacher costs as well as transportation costs. This will be taken into consideration as the new fiscal year budget is prepared.
- Reference was again made to the Gala profit of \$129, 144.77, which is \$29K over what was anticipated. Again it was stated that the additional \$29K raised could not go toward a specific project and would have to be used against the deficit.
- Health insurance costs were considered in the planning of the new fiscal year’s budget. It is known that there will be some cost savings with the new health insurance options, but that exact cost savings figure is not yet known.
- A revised timeline schedule for the process of awarding financial aid has been developed and will be implemented beginning in March. Mr. Kondratowicz noted that we do not have an endowment for financial aid and that is truly an expense line item.
- Tuition in Arrears review shows progress. There are some accounts that have entered collections proceedings. Some families have not yet paid the Student Activity Fee and will be billed thru the Facts System.
- An additional vehicle purchase is still warranted, it has been determined that this is not financially feasible at this time.
- The next meeting of the Finance Committee is Thursday March 16, 2023 at 5pm via Zoom.

Nominations (Sandy Blanchard)

- Sandy Blanchard is actively reaching out to prospective Board members who would begin terms in the upcoming academic year.
- Board members have again been encouraged to present potential nominees.
- There is a need for Board members who are not parents as the Board is at its current quota of parent membership.

Facilities (Jeff Pompa / Bill Darcy)

- Facilities had no new items to report.

Old Business:

- A brief review and discussion took place regarding the Saratoga Springs Mayors visit to the school.
- The issue of the parish involvement in the school will be addressed in the future.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm. Principal Signor gave the closing prayer.