

Saratoga Central Catholic School Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Central Catholic School Board was called to order at 5:04 on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 via Zoom by Chairperson Dawn Martinez. Fr. Chevalier gave the opening prayer.

Present

Dawn Martinez-Chairperson, Mary Fornabia-Co-Chair, Laurie Tomita, Terrill Brown, Francine Dingeman, Michael Kondratowicz, Becky Stauffer, Rev. Thomas Chevalier, Peter Hart and Joseph Kilmade, school principal

Absent

Sandy Blanchard

Peter Hart

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to accept the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes by Becky Stauffer and was seconded by Laurie Tomita. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Introduction of Guests

No guests in attendance this month

State of the School Report: Joseph Kilmade, School Principal

- This past month was the highest number of students/staff with COVID-19 related activity. Currently, 12 students and 1 staff member are quarantined. Over the last month 5-6 students tested positive for COVID 19. Principal Kilmade is taking it case by case instead of deciding to shut down for a week or two.
- With many activities being scheduled through the end of the year (Prom, Spirit Day, Retreats, etc.) Principal Kilmade is asking that student be mindful of social distancing and other guidelines related to preventing the spread of the virus.
- Currently 180 students registered (30 new students including 2 international students) for the 2021-22 school year. 20 current students have not re-enrolled for the next school year.
- Mr. Conway, (History teacher) is leaving 4/30/21. Mr. Curry and Ms. Izzo will be helping cover his classes for now until a replacement teacher is hired.
- Bishop Ed will be coming to the school to say Mass on Accession Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Committee Reports

Enrollment (Katie Dunne):

- The Welcome Committee has been contacting families that are new to the school. Overall, the feedback is that parents feel the approach to teaching is lacking in the areas of morality based learning and critical thinking. The impression is that teachers were speaking at the students rather than getting their input. Families felt that there could be more of an emphasis on faith in the classes other than theology. Becky Stauffer (Board Member) commented that we are a Catholic school and not a private school and that faith and morals should be part of all that we do.
- The topic of having a Community Night was discussed. This would be an evening to invite families into the school (safely and socially distanced). Principal Kilmade would update our families on the status of the school while giving parents an opportunity to be in the school and interact with staff.²
- Open House, Spring 2021 went very well. There were 29 families in attendance with appointment times for each one (very positive feedback on this). Departments grouped together (i.e. math, language arts). Some families immediately registered their children after the evening. Many 4th grade families from St. Clément's School attended. It was suggested that next time we should plan for 45-60 minutes for future tour times.
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Our school is interested in starting a PTO. The idea was very well received and will be researched as to the logistics of starting a group. The hope is for families to join as a way to be more involved in the school. The Enrollment Committee will move to a smaller core group with specific goals.
- Family Bowling Night at Strike Zone is to happen in early May.
- Enrollment exams for incoming students. There was a discussion on the clarity of placement test vs entrance exam.

Advancement/Development (Dawn Martinez):

- The Triple Crown 50/50 Raffle has sold 60 tickets to date. Tickets will be \$100 each. Winnings will be 60% for the Win, 25% for the Place, and 15% for Show. There is a potential total pot of \$25,000. The drawing will take place live on YouTube on June 6th.
- Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2021 at the Ballston Spa Country Club, with Dave Fizer chairing the committee. Presently, 22 golfers are signed up with \$5, 425. In sponsorships.
- The Spring Annual Appeal mailing will be sent out the week of May 3rd.

Facilities (Joe Kilmade):

- Our heating system was successful through the winter with all the repairs that were made.
- Paul D'Ambro is accessing what maintenance needs to be done in the school for the summer.

Mission Enhancement (Becky Stauffer):

- No news to report

Finance and Financial Aid (Michael Kondratowicz):

- Review of the March financial statements, 2 questions surrounding the total deficit and expense item related to the raffle fundraiser.
- Student Government Loans: The loans for the 2020-2021 have not been forgiven. The indication from the banks is that the government is focused on the second phase of loans. The school office remains optimistic and believes the process is just slow.
- Status of EANS (Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools) Funds: The diocesan school office will apply for the funds this week. It will be directed toward COVID related expenses. There is potential of \$90,000.00 but that number is not definite.
- Update on the Financial Aid Process. The committee met to discuss this process, and \$1000. is being budgeted per student. This gives the committee a budget in the low \$200,000's. When the committee meets again more information should be coming regarding other sources of aid (Lally, Beacon of Hope, and Cabrini), that is awarded to families.
- Tuition in Arrears; the total arrears continue to be lower than several months ago but is still high. It was discussed the general issues of collecting tuition. Principal Kilmade has communicated with many of the families in arrears and some agreements have been made.
- Staffing for 2021-2022 school year. It will be based on enrollment (approximately 185 students are returning as of now) and COVID regulations. A discussion was had about the application for Mandated Services that is due on 5/15/21.

Old Business: Career Day (F. Dingeman)

- It was a hugely successful day for grade 9-12
- There were 22 presenters (1 cancelled due to illness)
- 14 new presenters, 8 returned from 2019

- There were 4 sessions offered, 8-11am (40 minutes each)
- Press release was in the Saratogian and Saratoga Today, and Mari Izzo was interviewed on STAR radio.
- The entire morning was virtual with a few technology hiccups but overall it was a success.
- Some of the feedback from presenters was that they would prefer to present in person rather than virtually. All said “yes” or “maybe” to returning next year.
- Some of the feedback from the students was that they would like to be a full day vs half day, and would like the middle school students included.
- In general, the benefits of the day included having the school stand out and for the highlighted achievements of our graduates and reconnecting with those alumni with the potential of cultivating the stronger engagement with them.
- Thank you, gift and letters will be sent, out.
- A video was sent to each presenter from Principal Kilmade and Ms. Izzo thanking them.
- The BOT would like to thank Fran Dingeman and Maria Izzo for spearheading this wonderful day for our students and alumni.

New Business

*Nominations (Dawn Martinez):

- Bill Darcy was approved by the Diocese
- Fr. James, accepted
- Lisa Moser, approved by the Diocese
- Jeffrey Pompa, waiting for Pastor approval
- D. Martinez requested that next month’s meeting be in person, New BOT members will be invited to attend.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dawn Martinez and a closing prayer was given by Fr. Chevalier. An Executive Session was requested. The next meeting is set for, **5:00pm on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at SCC.**

Minutes submitted by: Mary Fornabia