

St. Ambrose School Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2018

Members Present: Julie Osborn, Delfina Dornes, Dan Clasby, Don Tungett, Chris Brown, Nichole Ontis, Scott Droste, Pete McFarlane

Others Present: Father Steve Janoski, Principal Jean Heil, Deacon Jay Wackerly

Chairperson Julie Osborn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked Father Steve to lead the group in a prayer.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed. The Principal's report was also approved as distributed.

Don Tungett thanked Father Steve for his initiative with the Gym air conditioning project. Father stated that three bids are in and the Finance Committee will be making recommendations soon.

Deacon Jay announced that the Knights of Columbus asked about whether stations of the Cross could be erected along the walking path behind the school buildings. Don Tungett made a motion to approve the idea based on finding a workable plan. Nichole Ontis seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Principal Jean Heil reported that the current enrollment is 244 students (pre-K thru 8th grade). She also said that this number was not static as there are several students who are possible additions. The classroom aides are the same as last year.

In the Pastor's report, Father Steve pointed out some changes in the Handbook that he and the Principal worked out. Included are:

- Uniform sock colors (solid)
- Homework maximums by grade level
- Communication stipulations for staff
- Strengthening of some disciplinary regulations
- Other minor wording changes.

Father Steve and Principal Heil indicated that the *Magic Match* program was an astonishing success. All classrooms and some extra-curricular programs have found sponsors to the tune of \$500 per school year.

Father Steve indicated that there was a significant concern about the Family/School Agreement which all parents signed when registering their child(ren) for St. Ambrose. A good number of parents are not, as of this date, living up to the Sunday Mass participation and contribution components of this agreement. There was a good bit of discussion about this

question based on how and when to approach the parents who fit into the non-compliance categories of this agreement. Father said that he and the Deacons would be making contacts with families in the coming weeks. Related to this question Father Steve asked about whether students who were absent from Sunday Mass should receive the Eucharist on Wednesday at the all-school mass. He asked if some other kind of service – instead of a Mass – might be more appropriate. There was a group discussion about concerns for punishing students or not giving them the opportunity for a weekly Mass because of their parent(s) negligence. It was suggested that Father might want to wait until the school year is underway before acting on this concern.

Information about the restored order of Sacraments has been provided in the new Handbook. Father Steve reported that because of the changes, it would take several years to get onto a new cycle of receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Changes have been made in the Parish Office. Father let the Board members know who was currently working and their tentative schedules.

Principal Heil reported that a grant was received to institute a robotics program. Mr. Frost will initiate the program at the club level.

Jean also reported that an application has been made for a grant (\$5000) to purchase science classroom lab tables. The current tables don't provide the surface necessary to conduct many science activities.

Jean and Father Steve asked about the company that would provide School pictures. A representative from the company that has been used in the past expressed a desire to speak to the Board. After some discussion it was decided that this was an administrative decision and that the Board trusted the Principal and Pastor to make this decision without a meeting.

Chris Brown asked about the Marketing and Development standing committee. She is unsure about what the expectations are for her in this area. Jean indicated that Quincy Catholic schools have one development person for all five schools. There were questions about what was being done now and what might be the cost/benefit for something more expansive. This issue was tabled for a future meeting.

Deacon Jay gave a brief report on work done to tighten up the School's computer services.

Don Tungett made a motion to change the Board By-Laws to indicate that the Board will not meet in July. The current By-Laws (Article 5, Section 1) state that June would be the month without a meeting. Scott Droste seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Dan Clasby moved that the meeting be closed and it was so stipulated by Julie Osborn at 7:35pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

Submitted by Pete McFarlane