**St. Joseph’s School Board Meeting Minutes**

July 21st, 2020

Compiled by Deacon Jacob Degele

**Present:** Fr. Kovash, Fr. Luger, Deacon Jacob, Julie Quamme, Aaron Schmit, Heidi Coughlin, Brandon Johnson, Erin Vournas, Kelsey Lee, Vanessa Njos (via phone)

**Call to Order:** Aaron Schmit

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Kovash

1. **Principal’s Report**
   1. Discussed the School Board report distributed at the meeting
   2. In particular, discussions were had on the section “Decisions from the School Board”:
      1. Will the students need to have temperatures checked each day before entering the building?
         1. Unanimous affirmative agreement among those present
         2. We will be using touchless thermometers.
         3. The board agreed that we must encourage parents to check their child’s temperature before arriving at the school, although the school will still take the temperature upon the child’s arrival.
         4. There was discussion about possibly requesting the assistance of retired nurses in our parish for this task.
      2. How will we, if we, accommodate students whose parents are requesting they stay home and learn remotely?
         1. Conclusive decisions were not reached regarding this question, although there was plentiful discussion.
         2. This question will be asked at the diocesan-wide superintendents’ and principals’ meeting on July 22nd.
      3. Who will have access to the school during the day? Parents? Volunteers?
         1. While there certainly needs to be a cautious limit on the number of outside individuals entering the school, parents and volunteers can be allowed in with some restrictions and stipulations:
            1. Masks will be required;
            2. Completion of a brief questionnaire like the hospital;
            3. Temperatures checked
      4. Would you request that the school write a Health and Safety Plan?
         1. The board reached an agreement that there must be something which the school can fall upon. The plan would likely mirror the “Color-coded Health Guidance System” released by the NDDPI.
         2. This plan will be discussed at the Open House with the parents.
      5. Would you request that the school write a Distance Learning Plan?
         1. Similar to the decisions reached on the Health and Safety plan.
         2. This will hopefully be discussed at the diocesan-wide superintendents’ and principals’ meeting on July 22nd.
      6. Do we plan for a choir?
         1. Inconclusive discussion.
         2. Questions were raised regarding the current liturgical restrictions put forth by Bishop Kagan.
      7. If WPSD #1 closes, would we follow?
         1. Strictly speaking, not necessarily. There are many differing factors at play between St. Joseph’s and the public school system. The reason for our closure would depend on the individual situation.
      8. Would we expect to wear masks: Students? Staff? Volunteers? Parents?
         1. The conclusion seemed to be reached that for students and staff, masks will be optional.
      9. Will we require staff to self-report?
         1. Unanimous affirmative agreement.
   3. Open House
      1. The open house was discussed as being a sort of “test-run” day for a typical “new normal” day at St. Joseph’s.
      2. Strong agreement at the possibility of doing the open house over the course of two nights, with families’ last names A-K being night one, and L-Z night two.
2. **Pastor’s Report:**
   1. Bishop Kagan has formally announced that, in the Diocese of Bismarck, schools will resume face-to-face instruction this fall.
   2. Fr. Kovash and Julie Quamme will be visiting with about a dozen families who have requested tuition assistance.
   3. Grateful for the tremendous anonymous gift received for tuition assistance.
3. Next meeting is August 11th at 4:30p