**ST. JOSEPH’S SCHOOL**

School Board Minutes

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020

4:30 pm

1. Call to order and opening prayer
   1. In attendance: Father Kovash, Julie Quamme, Brandon Johnson, Vanessa Njos, Erin Vournas, & Abbey Dahlberg
   2. Absent: Kelsey Lee, Heidi Coughlin, & Aaron Schmit
2. Previous Meeting Minutes
   1. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Brandon Johnson, 2nd by Vanessa Njos
3. Financial Report given by Father Kovash
   1. Last year we got some really nice gifts by this time last year. The longer this pandemic lingers these gifts may remain small.
   2. Scrip sales are down with 50% capacity at weekend mass.
   3. The school has helped 25 households with tuition assistance this year. The money is in an account at the diocese and is not reflected in this report. The school has also lost about 15 kids between last year and this year.
   4. Salaries (in general instruction) are up about $6,000 this year because 3 employees were moved from hourly to salary this year.
   5. Office supplies are up substantially as well due to COVID and the cleaning supplies that are needed.
   6. Office equipment is substantially lower as last year all new desks were purchased for preschool and kindergarten.
   7. Insurance costs are up because several individuals moved from an individual to a family plan.
   8. The final numbers look grave but with the tuition assistance check just received we are on track where we should be.
   9. The K&A golf tournament gifted the school about $15,000.
4. Principal’s Report given by Julie Quamme
   1. Enrollment is sitting at 203. The school has lost a few preschool kids because of COVID. There are also a few families that may be moving out of stated in the next couple of months. There are also some returning from public school.
   2. The first 3 ½ weeks of school have went extremely well.
      1. Temperature checks are going well and the kids are getting to class earlier than expected.
      2. Parents are vigilant and taking extra precautions.
      3. Sneeze guards have been made and placed on tables in Kindergarten and 2nd grade rooms.
      4. Smooth transition from green to yellow because we were well prepared. 1st grade in O’Neill hall was not successful and the kids were moved back to the classroom.
      5. Picnic lunches, breakfast in a box, and zones are working well. Kindergarten and preschool are eating lunch in the lunchroom. Additional playground items have been purchased for the “zones” at recess.
      6. The lower grades are doing 2 – 25 minute recesses and not having a lunch recess.
      7. Thursday communication memo to parents has been well received. Mrs. Quamme is also sending a daily communication memo to staff.
      8. Spray misting occurs twice a week and there is an increased cleaning of the school and bathrooms. The preschool rooms are also being cleaned daily as the kids still mouth objects.
      9. Masks are worn as much as possible and social distancing is enforced where possible. There has only been 1 positive case, but that child was not a school while infectious.
      10. Virtual learners have reduced from 11 to 3 students.
      11. The students are all receiving free breakfast and lunch thanks to a grant from the state.
   3. Continuing strategies
      1. The public school is going to start releasing “quarantine” numbers so the school board discussed whether or not we should do the same. The school board recommended not releasing this information at this time unless parents start requesting it.
      2. The students who are “quarantine” are distance learning when able. Mrs Quamme has been making it a point to reach out to these families when they are at home.
      3. The church is cleaned and sanitized after prayer service on Monday and school Mass on Fridays in addition to week and daily masses.
   4. What we know: Gov. (Burgum is speaking tomorrow at 10am.) Gov Burgum and Kristen Baesler state that:
      1. Learning is optimal when students are in school full-time.
      2. Hybrid models are not optimal
      3. The decision on what learning model your school is in is a local decision. We are encouraged to make risk-informed decisions and consider aspects such as county color; the educational, social-behavioral, and emotional risks.
      4. The local health unit and is no longer available to use. We are utilizing the state health department.
      5. Schools will take practical steps to mitigate the spread of the virus while continuing a focus on student learning.
      6. Private schools are not required to follow the guidance set out by NDDPI, but it is highly encouraged.
      7. The state has now deemed that teachers are not “essential workers” however the school does not want to risk safety by having teachers in the school have been exposed.
   5. It is expected that ND Schools will:
      1. Created safe learning environments for students and staff, with a focus on social emotional and physical health. Decisions will be rooted in what is best for the students.
      2. A health and safety plan will be created and approved by our School Board.
   6. Game plan moving forward:
      1. The school board agreed to having the students in school during the orange phase. The school board discussed needing more stringent rules such as masks in church and at prayer service. The school board did say that if the cases start to rise then the COVID committee would be called together and possibly the school board as well.
   7. Administrative Shadowing – Mrs. Mendis is working of finishing up her administrative degree and is shadowing Mrs. Quamme.
   8. New teachers are settling in and Mrs. Quamme is popping in their classes regularly. Mrs. Kalil is also working a lot with them.
   9. The health unit is coming in soon for flu vaccinations for staff.
5. PTO Update
   1. None
6. Old Business
   1. None
7. New Business
   1. Electing a new Vice President will be voted on at the next meeting.
8. Pastors Report given by Father Kovash
   1. Tuition assistance report
      1. This assistance has been a God send. Father feels like without it we might be down easily 20 kids.
      2. The parish subsidizes the school and the parish collections are down with everything going on, so this assistance is very helpful.
   2. COVID-19 Reactions
      1. Father is getting feedback from employees, parents, parish members etc. The school is doing their best to listen to everyone. There are a lot of strong opinions on both ends, but ultimately trying to make decisions that encompasses best learning environment, safety of staff and students, and financial considerations.
9. The next school board meeting will be Tuesday October 20th, at 4:30pm in O’Neill Hall.
10. Closing Prayer & Meeting Adjourned