

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by Susan Kasten, Treasurer

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, our friend and our brother, please guide us with your wisdom and love today. Help us to do your will and to be open to hear your voice as we speak and listen to one another. Amen.

PRESIDENT REPORT- Natalie Gordon, *Interim President*

- No report.

SECRETARY REPORT- Ashley Lack

- Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2024 meeting
 - A motion was made by Emily Lacy and seconded by Sarah Mendoza to approve the Minutes as distributed.

TREASURER REPORT- Susan Kasten

- Checking balance \$69,737.85
 - Ins and outs
 - CashBash report
 - Revenue was \$28, 537 (475 tickets)
 - Total of just over \$20,000 in expenses (includes winner payouts); total gross income was \$48,828
 - Expense of \$966 in credit card fees; next year it won't be an option for purchases to not pay the credit card fees
 - Expense of \$25 raffle license
 - Expense of \$800 digital marketing billboards

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT- Emily Lacy & Natalie Gordon

- Created brochure
 - For marketing of the school; will be available to hand out at open houses and other events
- PR video (created by Riverbender) went out to families last week and is also online (on Riverbender.com and the School/Parish Facebook pages)
- Will continue advertising for bowling event and then will switch to father/daughter dance and golf tournament

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT- Sarah Mendoza

- Completed Events
 - Cash Bash - THANK YOU to all who supported!

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

SAPA Meeting: March 6, 2024

Location: St. Ambrose Community Center

- Mother / Son Dance - THANK YOU to Marli Nixon and Amanda Beiser for creating a “glowing” evening. Thank you to those who donated to the event. Thank you to all the mothers and sons who participated and made the evening such a fun success!

- Upcoming Events
 - Bowling Family Event - Sue Stirnaman, Chair
 - Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024
 - Time: 1-3 pm
 - Location: Bowl Haven
 - Cost: \$9 per person for 2 games and shoes. Additional games \$3 per game.
 - Hope to you see you there!
 - Don't forget the time change that weekend!

 - Father / Daughter Dance - Sarah Mendoza reporting for Lisa Jacobs, Chair
 - Save the Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024
 - More details to come

 - Golf Tournament - Sarah Mendoza reporting for Jamie Frelang, Chair
 - Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024
 - Location: The Woodlands Golf Club & Banquet Facility
2839 Harris Lane, Alton, IL
 - Cost: \$125/golfer
 - 4 Person Team | 18 Hole Scramble
 - Theme: Cinco de Mayo
 - Catered lunch from Riviera Maya.
 - Register to play or to sponsor: sagolf2024.givesmart.com

 - Scholastic Book Fair - Sarah Mendoza reporting for Maggie Monahan, Peggy Kory and Lisa Crawford, Co-Chairs
 - Date: May 4 - 8, 2024
 - More details to come

DEACON JAY'S REPORT- Jay Wackerly

- Liturgical Press Inc (LPI) will host the new website for the Parish and school; no launch date yet
- Reminder: Sundays at 4:00 pm are the Lenten Prayer Services
 - Penance Service will be on 3/17 at 3:00 pm; 3 priests will be available for confession, followed by the Lenten Prayer Service
- New Parish financial system coming; hoping to be rolled out by the summer

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird

3-8-24	End of 3rd Quarter
3-14-24	Spring Pictures
3-15-24	NO SCHOOL, Teacher In-Service & Report Cards Open
3-20-24	1:30 Dismissal
3-25-24	Diocesan Accreditation & State Recognition Visit
3-28-4-2-24	Easter Break

-Diocesan Accreditation & State Recognition Visit - On Monday March 25, representatives from the Office of Catholic Education for the Springfield Diocese as well as from the Madison County Regional Office of Education will visit St. Ambrose for our Diocesan accreditation and recognition review. Planning and preparations have been ongoing for the last several years.

-Registration for 2024-2025 School Year Open - On Friday March 1, registration opened for the 2024-2025 school year. Timely completion of registration is essential in order for us to effectively plan for the next school year.

-PR Video & Brochure - Last week our PR video, created by Riverbender, was posted to our website as well as Riverbender.com. Brochures have been created and will be available to distribute to interested parents and for future St. Ambrose events.

-English Language Arts Curriculum Adoption The ELA curriculum adoption committee has begun the process to select a new program for the 2024-2025 school year.

-Student Service Expectation Coming in 2024-2025 - Currently our School Board is developing a plan to implement student service as an expectation for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. Once the policy is finalized it will be shared.

-St. Ambrose Alumni Association - At recent meetings group discussions have expressed how nice it would be to have a St. Ambrose Catholic School Alumni Association. We could not agree more and would love for passionate individuals to lead a project to develop an Alumni Association.

-February Character Counts Assembly - For the month of February's Character Counts Assembly focusing on the theme of FAIRNESS, we were pleased to welcome St. Ambrose Parishioner, longtime educator, and former professional athlete Mr. Tom Roth. Mr. Roth is the Assistant Principal of Jersey Community High School and has many years of experience in education working with youths. Given Mr. Roth's experiences in education and in his career as an athlete, FAIRNESS is something that is very important in his life. He spoke to our students about fairness, his career in education, and his experiences as a professional athlete, and more this past Thursday.

-Marquette Catholic HS Students to Complete Senior Mission Week at Local Parishes & Schools - We are pleased to announce that several St. Ambrose alumni, currently in their Senior year at MCHS, will be completing their Senior Mission Week service project at St. Ambrose School. During the Senior Mission Week (March 18-22) MCHS connects Seniors with their grade schools and parishes for a week of service.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- SAPA request for funds for upcoming bussing expenses for upcoming field trips
 - 3/27: 6/7th grade trips (Marquette bus for 6th grade, Alton School District bus for 7th grade)
 - 4/15: 4th grade (requested Marquette bus; pending approval)
 - 4/25: PreK (Marquette bus)
 - 4/26: K/1st grade (Marquette bus)
- Upcoming SAPA request for funds for 8th grade banner
- Upcoming SAPA request for funds for gowns for graduation
- Goal to have Service Hour Expectation Policy for 2024-2025 distributed by June 1st
- Upcoming canned good drive
 - March Madness theme; competition between classes
 - Email with details coming this week; also will be in weekly newsletter
- Students participated in Model UN last week
- Safety drills
 - next week: severe weather drill
 - In 2 weeks: fire/evacuation drill
- Friday March 8th at 7:15 pm is the 8th grade night for volleyball
- March 15 Teacher Inservice
- A question was asked about feedback from the middle school chastity presentation (from national speaker Jason Evert) that students attended; limited feedback has been positive from parents. Some students had varied interpretations of the message presented.
- April 8th Eclipse: Permission slips will be sent home for this school wide event. More information to come.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2024-2025 Officer Selection
 - Google Doc will be sent out to seek interest for positions
 - Will send out information document listing all positions/descriptions
 - Will make formal nominations for positions at April meeting with voting at May meeting
- Please submit any feedback on previous events or potential new events
- Applefest: will reach out to Applefest committee to speak at April SAPA meeting to see how we can assist with growing this fundraiser
- Anonymous suggestion box will be created for parents and will be available on the school website. It will be similar to the anonymous reporting system available to students.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION- Open Forum

- No additional questions were raised.

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

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CLOSING PRAYER: We give you thanks, Lord, for helping us to learn more and how to love one another. Please help us to always be instruments of your perfect peace in our school.
Amen.

With no additional questions/discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. by Natalie Gordon, Interim President

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Lack, Secretary