

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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- Susan Kasten reporting for Natalie Gordon, *Interim President*

- Welcome to the first SAPA meeting of the year. There are vacancies on the SAPA board due to resignations of some officers over the summer. The remaining SAPA officers met multiple times over the summer. We focused on new goals for SAPA with a focus on community, families and fun. We continue to strive to support our teachers.

SECRETARY REPORT- Ashley Lack

- Monthly Agenda & Meeting Minutes
 - Monthly Agenda will be emailed out 2 days prior to the meeting and Minutes will be emailed out within 5 days after the meeting.
- SAPA Newsletter
 - The SAPA newsletter is sent out attached to the weekly school newsletter. Be sure to look to it for all things SAPA, including upcoming events, volunteer sign up links, etc.

TREASURER REPORT- Susan Kasten

- Checking account balance
 - \$41,108.15. All Givesmart funds are deposited into this checking account so this includes all funds from the football raffle, Magic Match, Apple Fest, and Spirit Wear. All of this is not truly SAPA funds.
- Uniform Resale
 - This event raised \$705 which is \$99 more than last year.
- Dress Down Passes
 - No paper passes are being distributed this year. The school officer will keep track of when dress down passes are used by students. This year there is only one payment method to purchase passes-Givesmart.
 - To date, this event has raised \$1025 (254 passes); last year at this time we had raised \$1870 (465 passes).

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT- Emily Lacy reporting for Emily Lacy & Natalie Gordon

- No report.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT- Sarah Mendoza

- Back to School Night at the Playground Recap

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- This was a great event with a great turnout of approximately 75-100 people. It was a great way to kick off the school year. Special thank you to Sue Stirnaman for donating the popsicles.
- Event Chairs Needed
 - November - 1st Communion Celebration
 - December - Christmas Feast
 - Maggie Monohan volunteered via email to chair this event.
 - December - Family Movie Night/Jammies & Cocoa
 - Chris Varady and Mark Terry volunteered to chair this event.
 - January - Ice Skating
 - Chris Varady volunteered to chair this event.
 - February- Mother/Son Dance
 - Marli Nixon volunteered to chair this event.
 - March - Bowling
 - Sue Stirnaman volunteered to chair this event
 - May- Teacher Appreciation
 - Abby Stephens volunteered via email to chair this event.
- Grandparents' Day- Peggy Kory, Chair
 - Maggie Monahan is also assisting with this event. This will be a large event with 590-600 people expected..
 - Still looking for 2-3 people to assist at the reception that morning
 - Donations will be accepted at the event to help offset the cost.
- Spirit Wear-Peggy Kory reporting for Peggy Kory & Maggie Monahan, Chairs
 - There is a new vendor this year with lots of new options. The vendor is also open to ideas for other merchandise so reach out to Peggy or Maggie if there's something you want that you don't see. The school is receiving 10% of the proceeds from the spirit wear sales. The July profit was \$100. August numbers will be coming soon.
- Golf-Jamie Freleng, Chair
 - The event will be May 4th at Woodlands. The theme will be Cinco de Mayo and will include a taco bar for lunch this year. The Golf Committee is requesting help from SAPA with fundraising, including obtaining hole sponsors and donations for prizes.

DEACON JAY'S REPORT- Jay Wackerly

- Eucharistic Congress
 - Shared a video from the diocese about the Eucharistic Congress which is October 28th in Springfield.
 - St. Ambrose had 129 tickets available; 92 still remain. The church is looking at getting a bus to transport parishioners to/from the event. All unclaimed tickets are being turned back in to the diocese on September 15th so sign up through the Flocknote link soon if you'd like to go.
- Parish Activities
 - New livestream camera in the church.

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- 14 new security camera views.
- Exodus 90 for the men in the parish: This starts 90 days before Easter with a focus on fathers and how to be a better father/catholic example. On November 10th, there will be a Mens' Night Out at the Knights of Columbus Hall where the CEO of Exodus 90 will speak.
- Parish Retreat will be November 11-14.
- Mercy Tree Adventures- a company offering tree climbing in conjunction with Luke 19. They are focusing on families. They will come to talk to SAPA in the future. Parish cannot sponsor; KC or SAPA can sponsor this potential event.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird

- **CALENDAR**

- 9/6 – SAPA (St. Ambrose Parents' Association) Meeting, 6:00 Community Center
9/8 Grandparent's/Grandfriend's Day
- 9/12 – Confirmation Parent Meeting, 6:30 Community Center
- 9/13-9/15 – 8th Grade to Camp Ondessonk
- 9/17 – Catechetical Sunday
- 9/19 – Fall Pictures
- 9/20 – 1:30 Dismissal
- 9/21 – Illinois Attorney General's Office Presentation
- 9/22 – 8th Grade Day at MCHS
- 9/23 – Rite of Enrollment for those to be Confirmed
- 9/29 – NO SCHOOL for Applefest Setup
- 9/29-9/31 – Applefest
- **Meeting with SAPA Leadership**-Last week, Fr. Steve and Mr. Baird met with the new leadership of SAPA. We discussed a new spirit of collaboration between the administration (Pastor & Principal) and SAPA leadership, with a focus on building up St. Ambrose and supporting the educational process for our students.
- **Possible Uses of SAPA Funds**- It is very important that we communicate to our school/parish community how we are spending their dollars raised through fundraising efforts. At our leadership meeting last week, we discussed several possible uses of SAPA funds. There are three extremely important areas that could use additional funds, including;

-Safety and Security (interior doors, safety and security equipment in the rooms, school resource officer)

-Curriculum (our ELA English-Language Arts Curriculum will be updated and expenses continue to grow)

-Building needs (new carpet or flooring in 1-4 grade wing, new AC in the teacher's lounge, playground equipment)

- **School Security**- We have implemented additional practices during the school day and at Mass to keep our students more safe (we will discuss at the meeting). In preparation for this school year, our school staff received active shooter training and CPR/First Aid/Stop the Bleed training this Summer.
- **Friday Sept. 1, 2023 Dress Down For Charity to Support Maria Lanakila Catholic Church in Lahaina, Hawaii**- Our first dress down for charity collection was Friday Sept. 1, 2023. We supported the Maria Lanakila Catholic Church in Lahaina, Hawaii. This Catholic Church lost their

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school and their rectory, but their Church building is still standing, and their community will rebuild around it. That rebuild will require much time and a great deal of resources. Our collection will help them in their recovery efforts. The \$1.50 dress down collection from each student that participated will go to the Maria Church. Parents and parishioners are welcome to donate additional funds as well. We ask that all donations be submitted by Friday Sept. 8, 2023. Please mark on the check or envelope if it is a donation for the Maria Church in Hawaii.

- **Congratulations To Longtime Head Librarian Maralee Juravich!!**-Congratulations to our longtime Head Librarian, Maralee Juravich! On Friday Sept. 1, 2023 we had a grand opening ceremony for our library for the 2023-2024 school year. At the ceremony, we named our St. Ambrose Catholic School library, "*The Maralee Juravich Student Library.*" Mrs. Juravich was so deserving of this honor after some 30 years of leading our library efforts and ensuring our student library is warm and engaging for our children. Students always look forward to library time with Mrs. Juravich and the other librarians. A special thank you to the current librarians, and the many volunteers that have served our student library in the past!
- **Trunk or Treat** - will be coordinated by 7th grade parents. More information will be out towards the end of September.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- A question was asked about the curriculum for the school and whether or not the diocese assists with this.
 - The diocese does not assist with paying for or selecting the curriculum used in the school. The diocese does have only 6-7 approved religion curriculums.
- A question was asked about the AC unit in the staff lounge that quit working.
 - Jules King volunteered to donate a window AC unit if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- SAPA Parent Liaisons/Event Chairs/Officers Nomination Approvals
 - The goal is to have 1-2 SAPA Liaisons per wing of the school.
 - PreK-K-1: Chris Varady & Marli Nixon volunteered
 - 2-5: Mark Terry and Peggy Kory may possibly volunteer
 - 6-8
- SCRIP promotion
 - SAPA will continue to promote gift card sales through SCRIP. This is still a great fundraiser for the church even though the per family requirement for SCRIP was replaced with Cash Bash ticket sales this year. The benefit of purchasing gift cards through SCRIP is there is no activation fee/surcharge for the gift cards as opposed to buying them at the grocery store/drug store. SAPA will plan to promote this especially around the holidays.
 - SAPA would like to put out a video tutorial on how to use the RaiseRight app which can then be posted on the school and parish websites. Mark Terry volunteered to assist with creation of the how-to video.
- Tree Lot
 - SAPA will not be organizing this fundraiser this year. It was suggested that another organization could sponsor this activity, however the previous chair

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declined that option. Patrick Williams states he will cancel the tree order with the Michigan vendor. SAPA is looking at possibly replacing the tree lot with an in person family event/photos with Santa activity.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION- Open Forum

- It was requested that information of what each SAPA officer position/event chair involves be sent out again to parents.
- Apple Fest Updates- Susan Kasten reporting for Missy Estes
 - Volunteers are still needed. Go to the Apple Fest website to sign up. They are still accepting donations as well. All t-shirt orders are due by Friday 9/8/23. These are dry-fit shirts this year. Please promote grand raffle ticket sales.
 - It was suggested that very responsible high school students in need of volunteer hours could be contacted to assist with Apple Fest. Mr. Baird said he would reach out to Marquette Catholic High School.

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 further questions/discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. by Susan Kasten