

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Natalie Gordon, Interim President

**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 November 1, 2023 meeting
  - A motion was made by Susan Kasten and seconded by Sarah Mendoza to approve the Minutes as distributed.
- Cash Bash Raffle Fee Waive Letter Approval
  - A motion was made by Susan Kasten to put to vote the approval of the Cash Bash Raffle Fee Waive letter for the Village of Godfrey.
    - The motion was unanimously approved by present voting Board members: Sarah Mendoza, Ashley Lack, Susan Kasten, Emily Lacy, Chris Varady, Natalie Gordon

**TREASURER REPORT-** Susan Kasten

- Cardinals Calendar Fundraiser
  - Thank you Paige Dawdy for chairing this fundraiser.
  - 116 calendars were sold which results in a \$734 profit for the school
- Budget
  - Copies were distributed at the meeting (see attached)
  - Money left over from last year: Father approved to wait to fully distribute it
- Trivia
  - Thank you Erin Kochan for chairing this event.
  - The income from trivia was \$5,062.60, with \$416.81 in expenses, and \$400 still to be collected from a sponsor, which will result in just over \$5000 profit
- Football Raffle
  - Anticipated \$3500 income
- The parish/school is looking into a different (and cheaper) option to replace Givesmart

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT-** Emily Lacy & Natalie Gordon

- Ordering two more banners from Schwartzkopf Printing for Cash Bash
  - Will add a website to the banner and then will be ordered
- Billboard advertising? Who to contact?

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**

**SAPA Meeting:** December 6, 2023

**Location:** St. Ambrose Community Center

- An estimate was received stating that 4 billboards would be \$1300 plus a \$300 start up fee. It was agreed that 2 billboards would be enough to advertise for Cash Bash in addition to the large outdoor banners. We will request a new estimate for only 2 billboards.

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT-** Sarah Mendoza

- Completed Events
  - Trivia Night - Thank you Erin Kochan for a successful night
  - Toys for Tots - HUGE thank you to Krueger's Orchard
    - Donations still being accepted through December 10
  
- Upcoming Events
  - Family Movie Night- Chris Varady, Chair
    - Saturday, December 16th in the St. Ambrose Gymnasium
    - Movie: *The Polar Express*
    - Doors open at 6 pm with movie starting at 6:30 pm
    - Popcorn, treats and hot chocolate will be provided
    - Come dressed in your favorite pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal and/or blanket and your favorite movie snacks
    - Help is needed for setup and manning stations as well as clean up:  
Volunteer link: <https://signup.com/go/BKzviwC>
  
  - Christmas Feast
    - Wednesday, December 20th in the Community Center
    - Menu (provided by Julia's) will include: glazed ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, roll and cake
    - Cost: \$4 per student and SAPA will cover the additional cost of the meal. Students are not required to order lunch that day, and can still join in the celebration with a packed lunch from home.
    - Parents, we need help with the setup and serving, Volunteer link: <https://signup.com/go/HOKjGCZ>
  
  - Ice Skating at the Loading Dock- Chris Varady, Chair
    - Planning for Saturday, January 27, 2024
    - Reserved from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
    - Rental will be \$500, which includes skate rentals
    - More details to come

**DEACON JAY'S REPORT-** Jay Wackerly

- Stewardship Report final draft is anticipated soon.
- The Church is looking at changing software for finances with increased mobile capabilities for giving and reaching groups in the Parish for texting and emails. This

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**  
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project will take at least a year. This change is Diocese wide; every Parish will have same software

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird**

**-CALENDAR**

- Dec. 13 - 1:30 Dismissal
- Dec. 13 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 Community Center
- Dec. 14 - Christmas program, 6:00 in the Gym
- Dec. 20 - Christmas Feast hosted by SAPA
- Dec. 21 - End of 2nd Quarter
- Dec. 22 - NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK
- Jan. 3 - School Resumes
- Jan. 12 - 2nd Quarter Report Cards Open

**-“Giving Tuesday,” 11-28-23 A Major Success!** - Tuesday Nov. 28, 2023 was designated as “Giving Tuesday.” St. Ambrose Catholic School was fortunate to have a generous donor provide a “matching gift” opportunity, in which the generous donor would match gifts from family and friends of St. Ambrose Catholic School. The gifts and matching donation are to provide for a new English-Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. The goal was \$15,000 and with the support of family, friends, and our generous donor we were able to reach our goal! Thank you all!

**-Marquette Catholic HS Principal Tim Harmon Talks To St. Ambrose Students** - On Wednesday Nov. 29, St. Ambrose held our monthly Character Counts Assembly. At the assembly, MCHS Principal, Tim Harmon, talked to our student body about the theme for November - TRUSTWORTHINESS. Mr. Harmon is also a volunteer fireman in Jersey County. He talked to the students about fire safety and encouraged all of them to talk with their families at home about a fire safety plan specific to their home. He also showed off common equipment used by firefighters. Thank you Mr. Harmon for your leadership in Catholic education and for your volunteer efforts to keep our area safe!

**-Safety and Security Committee Met** - This past week, our St. Ambrose Safety and Security Committee met to discuss updates for ongoing projects and to target future improvements. After discussing updates to current projects, the focus of the meeting was on future projects and safety and security improvements. The committee determined an appropriate next step was to have a more advanced security audit completed. The results of that audit will help determine future improvements.

**-MAP Testing Results To Be Sent Home** - Individual results for our recent Fall MAP test will be sent home as soon as possible. Group results and summaries will be available and asap. Delays have been due to retesting. Available data will be shared at the SAPA Meeting.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- Catholic Schools Week: The planning committee led by Kim Wackerly is working to finalize activities and they are considering an off site event that week, however the price for busing is a consideration. The planning committee will submit ideas and fund requests to SAPA leadership soon.
- Update to Giving Tuesday donation: \$23,000
- Mr. Baird shared a spreadsheet summary of MAP testing group results. Major growth is noted in Math this year for each class; the new math curriculum, Sadlier Math, was adopted 2 years ago. Only 4 categories were not exceeding the Diocesan average. We

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**

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showed growth in 13/15 potential categories that could show improvement. Initial review of test results allowed identification of “underperformers” and allowed those 16 students to be retested; 13/16 did significantly better on the retest. Individual reports will be sent home Friday. Group results will be posted in the next 24-48 hours.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Cash Bash
  - Planning to have tickets ready for sale January 1.
  - Early Bird Drawings: January 15, January 29
  - Final Drawing: February 10
  - Reminder: New requirement for each family to sell 2 tickets (or opt out for \$200) to replace the SCRIP requirement
  - Potential for \$32,000 profit if we sell all 500 tickets
  - New this year will be tracking ticket sales for each school family; SAPA will need to obtain a list of school families from the school office. The tickets have an extra line on them this year “Family Credit to \_\_\_\_\_” so that the purchaser can put which school family should get credit for the sale.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION-** Open Forum

- Marli Nixon, who is chairing the Mother/Son dance in February asked about determining a specific date. Mr. Baird states that if potential dates are sent to him, he will verify that the gym is available and then we can submit our final date to Father Steve for approval. The theme for the dance is “Let’s Glow Crazy.” There will be a sign up for volunteers and a sign up for snack donations coming once a date is selected.

**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 6:58 p.m. by Natalie Gordon, Interim President.