

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 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 December 6, 2023 meeting
  - A motion was made by Natalie Gordon and seconded by Susan Kasten to approve the Minutes as distributed.

**TREASURER REPORT-** Susan Kasten

- Checking account balance \$37,085
  - December income \$1355
    - This includes spiritwear, some of the cardinal's calendars, toy drive donations, and a \$500 donation from the Kohl family
      - Thank you Kohl family for your generous donation!
  - December expenses \$1587
    - This includes football raffle payout, spiritwear payout, Cash Bash banners, digital billboards to market Cash Bash, teacher appreciation, Family Movie Night, and the oranges given to students for St. Nick's Day.

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

- Arrow signs- contract signed. 2 billboard locations runs from January 9th- February 9th
  - The billboards actually went live today 1/3/24; we are not being charged for the extra 6 days. Thank you to Arrow Signs!
- Banners picked up from Schwartzkopf's- received the okay to place banner at Landmarks and Ridge location.
  - A banner will also be placed at Stamper Ln/Godfrey Rd.

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT-** Sarah Mendoza

- Completed Events
  - Family Movie Night - THANK YOU to Chris Varady and Mark Terry. Thank you to all who came out and participated - it was a fun, family event
    - Recommend holding the event in the Community Center instead of the gym next time due to emergency lighting affecting seeing the screen

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**  
**SAPA Meeting: January 3, 2024**  
**Location: St. Ambrose Community Center**

- Christmas Feast - a huge thank you to Maggie Monahan and team for a successful celebration
- Upcoming Events
  - Ice Skating at the Loading Dock- Chris Varady, Chair
    - Saturday, January 27, 2024
    - Reserved from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
    - Planning to have snacks of donuts and milk/water/orange juice
    - SAPA is paying \$500 for this event, which includes skates and rental for unlimited skaters
    - No cost to families but will have donation bucket or Venmo QR code available to anyone who would like to help offset the cost
    - More details and links to come
  - Mother / Son Dance
    - Planning for February
    - More information to come
      - Tentative date of February 24
        - Needs approved by Father before official
      - 6:00-8:00 pm in the gym
      - Theme: Glow Crazy
  - Family Bowling - Sue Stirnaman, Chair
    - Tentative date April 14
      - Needs approved by Father before official
    - 1:00-2:30 pm at Bowl Haven
    - Sue was given information on 2 packages available-
      - 1.5 hours bowling, shoe rental, and 2 pitchers soda for every 5 bowlers cost \$11.05 per bowler
      - 1.5 hours bowling, shoe rental, 2 pitchers of soda for every 5 bowlers and 1 large single topping pizza for every 5 bowlers cost \$14.95 per bowler
    - We would like to have it set up like last year, where lanes were reserved for St. Ambrose and families paid for their individual shoe rental/2 games. Food was not provided, but families were welcome to purchase food on their own. Sue will contact Bowl Haven again for clarification on this event.
    - More information to come.

**DEACON JAY'S REPORT-** Natlie Gordon reporting for Jay Wackerly

- The Stewardship report should be available on the St. Ambrose web site at the end of the week.

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**  
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- We plan to start developing our local instance of ParishStaq, the new Church Management System (CMS) , in January. Our tentative goal is to have the new CMS by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-** Natalie Gordon reporting for Bob Baird

**Calendar**

1/3/24	School Resumes
1/12/24	Report Cards Open
1/15/24	NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/17/24	1:30 Dismissal
128/24	Catholic Schools Week
-2/2/24	

2nd Semester Happenings - The 2nd Semester of this 2023-2024 school year is full of many important tasks that must be completed. Two of the most important tasks are;

-English/Language Arts Curriculum Review - A committee of teachers and parents will decide on a new ELA curriculum for the entire school.

-State & Diocesan Accreditation - On Monday March 25, representatives from the State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Diocese of Springfield will be on hand to review our policies, processes, and how we operate as a school. At the end of the process we are to receive recognition and accreditation from the State and Diocese.

Final Single Doors Replaced - During the Christmas break, the last of our single exterior doors were replaced. In the last 3 ½ years we have replaced all the exterior doors, with the remaining glass entrances to be covered by the IEMA Grant.

Catholic Schools Week Coming Soon

Our annual celebration of our Catholic schools is scheduled for the end of January during the week of January 28-February 2, 2024. The list of activities is almost complete and will be announced in the upcoming days.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Cash Bash Fundraiser
  - Tickets went live on January 1st. <https://SACASHbash24.givesmart.com>
  - 58 tickets sold so far as of tonight's meeting.
  - There are 162 school families. If each family sells their required 2 tickets, that would be 324 tickets sold with a net profit of \$17,000.
  - 154 tickets need to be sold to break even; all ticket sales above this is profit
  - Early bird drawings are January 15 and January 29
    - Purchase cut off to be included in early bird drawings:
      - Sunday January 14 at 6:00 pm
      - Sunday January 28 at 6:00 pm

**St. Ambrose Parents' Association**

**SAPA Meeting:** January 3, 2024

**Location:** St. Ambrose Community Center

- Yard signs advertising Cash Bash were available at the meeting and distributed to those who had connections to businesses or whose homes are in high traffic areas.
- PR team will ask Father about changing the marquee in front of church to advertise Cash Bash

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION-** Open Forum

- Our PR team has not heard anything further about the marketing video that was going to be made with Riverbender. They will follow up with Mr. Baird on this.

**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 6:29 p.m. by Natalie Gordon, Interim President.

***Respectfully submitted by Ashley Lack, Secretary***