

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*

- No report.

SECRETARY REPORT- Ashley Lack

- Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2023 meeting
 - A motion was made by Sarah Mendoza and seconded by Susan Kasten to approve the minutes as distributed.

TREASURER REPORT- Susan Kasten

- Current Bank Balance \$38,977
- Magic Match totaled \$11,000
- Saints Sponsors totaled \$11,500. This is an estimate due to the Knights of Columbus finalizing their donation after the Fish Frys.
- Saints Sponsors are:
 - Miller King Attorneys at Law
 - Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Rev, Steven Janoski Charitable Fund
 - Godfrey Knights of Columbus Council 7804
 - Tarrant & Harmon Real Estate & Auction Co. Abby Delehanty, Agent
 - Bright Way Imaging
 - Liberty Bank
 - Alton Sports Tap
 - John & Sue Stirnaman
 - Deacon Bill & Pat Kessler
 - Deacon Jay & Kim Wackerly
 - J.A.D.
- Magic Match Sponsors are:
 - Ron Winkler
 - Deacon Bill & Pat Kessler
 - Shawn & Nancy Hanlon
 - Judith Clark in memory of her husband Jim Clark
 - J.A.D.
 - Kathy Rogers
 - Ric & Linda Jun

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
SAPA Meeting: November 1, 2023
Location: St. Ambrose Community Center

- David & Mary Eckhouse
- Mark & Rebecca Terry
- Jim & Jennifer Hendrickson
- Carla & David Totten; Nancy & William Orrill; Debbie & James Ellebracht; Donna & Stephen Mikoff
- Terry & Noncy Dooling
- Deacon Jay & Kim Wackerly
- Greg & Georgia Adams
- Michael Stephan
- Tom Bechtold & Cynthia Gelsthorpe
- Virginia Thomeczek
- Godfrey Knights of Columbus Council 7804
- Saints Sponsors can specify where their donation goes; otherwise their donation gets spread among the larger fundraiser events as needed.
- Mel Bechtold made poster which will travel to school/parish events and will hang in school lobby to recognize these donors.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON TREASURER'S REPORT

- Jules King requested copy of SAPA budget.

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

- Recent Facebook posts
 - Character Counts Assembly and Life Saving Awards given to Mr. Baird and Thea Mendoza.
 - Halloween Parade

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

- A promotional video is being created by Riverbender. School Board members are working with Riverbender to create this video.
- A discussion was held regarding additional ways to advertise and promote our school including:
 - Reaching out to local daycares to promote our Pre-K program
 - Expanding to North County advertising since some Marquette students reside in North County
 - Community Open House
 - PK/K Open house is already scheduled this spring on April 21, 2024
 - Reaching out to families with new babies such as gifting onesies that say "Future Saint"; could possibly work with local hospitals.
 - Billboards in the community
 - The IT department is looking into using some grant money to put some large TV screens/Smart Screens in gym

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT- Sarah Mendoza

- Halloween Parade - Thank you to Amy and Brad Watts

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- It was cold but we had a great turn out. We won 3rd place for the Youth Division. This was the first year we didn't run out of candy!
- Upcoming events
 - Trivia Night
 - Saturday, November 4, 2023 - doors open at 6 pm, play starts at 7 pm
 - At the Sports Tap in Alton
 - Tables still available (9 tables as of 10.27.23)
 - As of tonight's SAPA meeting, 11 tables have been reserved out of 19 tables originally available
 - During the trivia there will be a 50/50 drawing and a booze raffle
 - Toys for Tots Drive to "Help Fill Santa's Bag"
 - Sunday, November 26, 2023 from 12 pm to 3 pm
 - Christmas Community Event at Krueger's Orchard on Airport Rd
 - Bring an unwrapped new toy for the Toys for Tots toy drive
 - Visit with Santa, take a family picture at the photo booth, enjoy hot chocolate, and warm yourself by the bonfire
 - There will be seasonal items, baked goods and cut your own Christmas trees available for purchase
 - If you can't attend, there will also be a Toys for Tots box in the front entry at church
 - Krueger's did a pumpkin education session with PK-2nd grade
 - Family Movie Night
 - Saturday, December 16, 2023
 - Doors open 6:00 pm; movie starts at 6:30 pm
 - Saint Ambrose School Gym
 - Movie will be The Polar Express
 - Come in your comfy pj's, bring your favorite stuffed animal and/or blanket and your favorite movie snacks
 - Popcorn, treats and hot chocolate will be provided
 - Chris Varady and Mark Terry are running this event
 - Sign up will be coming soon
 - Christmas Feast
 - Wednesday, December 20, 2023
 - At Saint Ambrose School
 - For the kids, a special lunch during normal school hours to help celebrate the season
 - Event Chair Maggie Monahan is working with Julia's on menu/pricing

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DEACON JAY'S REPORT- Jay Wackerly

- The parish is in need of ushers during Masses. It's an easy way to get 1 volunteer hour.
- Reminder that Exodus 90 (for men) will be at the KC Hall on November 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. There will be beer and pizza.
- St. Ambrose will host a viewing of The Sound of Freedom on Tuesday November 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON DEACON JAY'S REPORT

- Thank you to Deacon Jay for organizing St. Ambrose's participation in the Eucharistic Congress!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird

- **CALENDAR**
- -Nov. 3 – 12:45 Dismissal, Teacher In-Service
- -Nov. 4 – St. Ambrose Trivia Night at Sports Tap
- -Nov. 8 – School Board, 6:00
- -Nov. 13-16 – MAP Testing
- -Nov. 22-24 NO SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING BREAK
- -Nov. 28 – Picture Retakes
- -Nov. 29 – Character Counts Assembly, 2:00
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- **IEMA Grant Moves Forward!**-Finally after months of delay, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency grant to improve safety and security is about to move forward. In April, St. Ambrose was awarded \$144,000 through the grant. These funds will replace the glass entryways, install safety film on the windows, provide access controls, and provide intercom phones in the rooms. Soon, the State of Illinois will announce the timeline for the grant, and this will allow us to progress with the process. More updates will be provided soon.
- **Mite Box Collections & Mustache March Food Drive**-The collection for the MCA (Missionary Childhood Association) mite box runs from now until Nov. 21. All money collected will be sent to the MCA to support poor and needy children around the world. The Mustache March is hosting a food drive in honor of fallen officer Blake Snyders' 41st birthday. Food items (canned goods, and dry goods) can be turned in anytime between now and Nov. 17. The class that collects the most items will receive a pizza party.
- **Please Pray for Our Students To Receive the Sacraments**-On Saturday Nov. 4, 2023 our 3rd grade students along with a few others will receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please continue praying for our young people as they prepare for these extremely important milestones in their spiritual lives.
- **MAP Testing Coming Soon**- Twice a year students in 3-8 grades complete the MAP test (Measure of Academic Progress). In past years we have tested in Reading, Math, and Science. New this year, the students will also complete a test on "Language." Testing is scheduled for the week of November 13-17. Individual results will be emailed home to parents once they are available. Group results will be posted once they are available.
- **Marquette Catholic HS Service Hours**- Anytime St. Ambrose has an event that requires volunteers, we can reach out to MCHS and request the information be shared with students. All Marquette students are required to complete service and many would enjoy a volunteer experience at St. Ambrose.

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- **November Character Counts Assembly 11-29-23, 2:00** - November family resources and discussion questions have been posted to the school website. Our November Character Counts assembly, emphasizing TRUSTWORTHINESS, is scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 29 at 2:00. Mr. Tim Harmon, Principal at Marquette Catholic HS and volunteer fireman, will speak on the November topic of TRUSTWORTHINESS.
- Thank you for the life saving award. Thank you to Deacon Bill for speaking on responsibility.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Mr. Baird thanked SAPA for the Principal's Day gift basket
- Mr. Baird thanked everyone who coordinated and participated in the Halloween parade and the upcoming Trivia Night.
- Mr. Baird made a request to SAPA for funding:
 - for staff shirts (approximately 40 people including parish staff).
 - for gift cards to be used to incentivize students for MAP testing. The plan is that any student who shows growth from their last testing will have their name put in the drawing for gift cards. He's requesting \$500-\$1000.
- Mr. Baird also noted that \$1000 was donated by Jeff Lauritzen from Country Financial for the book vending machine.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business was brought forward.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION- Open Forum

- 7th Grade's Trunk or Treat event raised \$1345
 - There was an issue this year with people showing up who were not on the sign up list. This will be discussed with event coordinators to address this issue for next year.

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 6:45 p.m. by Susan Kasten, Treasurer.