

Saint Ambrose School Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

6:00 p.m. – Community Center

Mission: St. Ambrose School provides a foundation of Catholic truths and values. Students will leave with the knowledge and skills necessary for life in the modern world.

Members Present: Julie Osborn, Delfina Dornes, Chris Brown, Abby Stephens, Maggie Kohl, Scott Droste, Paul Braundmeier, Dan Clasby. **Absent:** Sue Wickenhauser

Others Present: Bob Baird, Deacon Jay Wackerly, Fr. Steve Janoski.

Opening Prayer - Chairperson Osborn opened the meeting at 6:03 pm and asked Mr. Baird to lead the group in prayer.

Approval of Minutes - Julie asked if there were any changes for the April minutes that were emailed. There being no changes, Paul moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dan seconded the motion. With no dissent, the Chair indicated that the April minutes were approved as shared.

Principal's Report:

- **Registration Update** – As of today, we have 208 students registered for next year. There are still some students we believe are returning but have not yet registered. Several families have toured recently, and Bob is optimistic we will see growth. There is a possibility that the kindergarten class will be split into two sections if we have more register (there are 23 registered). Depending on the final registrations for next year's 7th grade, we may look at splitting that class as well.
- **Science Curriculum Update** – The Leadership Council met to start looking at programs. One program being considered is Savvas (Elevate series). We currently use it in middle school, and we are looking at integrating it into the K-5 levels as well. Another program under consideration is Nancy Larson. The next meeting is May 18th at 3pm, and there will be sales representatives from each company who will present information on the programs.
- **Curriculum Mapping** – We are going to be looking at curriculum maps each year to show the flow of subjects through grade levels and to connect learning standards. We will send these to parents in pdf form.
- **MAP Test Results** – quick summary: 4 of 8 classes in science exceeded diocesan average. Mr. Baird was pleased with science and reading (3 of 8 classes exceeded, and other classes were very close). In Math 3 of 8 classes exceeded. Bob will provide more detailed information soon. Julie mentioned that this is not an ideal year to consider the standardized test scores, and other board members agreed.
- **The 2021-2022 School Calendar** has been posted, but it is always subject to change.
- **Field Trips** – all classes have had trips or will be going in the next week or two.

- Outdoor Classroom – We have received \$4500 in donations, and a grant application has been submitted. If we are awarded the grant, we should be about halfway to the total of \$20,000-\$25,000. Renderings are expected soon so that they can be shared with parishioners.
- Tomorrow is dress down for charity, and Friday is tie-dye Spirit Day.
- RenWeb/FACTS Update – On June 1 there will be professional development to get teachers ready for using RenWeb. Staff will be doing CPR training that day as well. Maggie asked about use of Remind or other platforms, and Bob said he is encouraging streamlining.
- 2021-2022 COVID Protocols – We will have to wait to see what the various entities recommend (CDC, IDPH, MCHD). Hopefully by mid-summer we will know. The Response Team is ready to continue their role.
- Disciplinary Process: School cannot share disciplinary information per confidentiality laws for specific students.
- Charter supposed to connect fiber on May 18th, so we will be able to record from the security cameras. They are functional now (live) but not able to record.

Confirmation & First Eucharist for 2022 and beyond - Beginning July 1st these sacraments will take place at the cathedral. Bishop Paprocki wants to move beyond just a celebration at each parish, and to celebrate it as the Church as a whole. We expect the whole group from our parish can have a designated date so the children can be together, but there may be other schools as well. Our time will be a Saturday at 11am (probably in the Spring), and the children will need to be there at 10am. We will celebrate them in our parish on a different date. Fr. Steve also mentioned that Pope Francis has established the ministry of catechists, so things may look different. The Church is trying to emphasize the role of lay ministers.

Officers for 2021-2022 school year – all officers will remain the same (Julie – chair, Abby – vice-chair, Chris-secretary)

Paul shared that Bob has done a great job this year as principal. Board members expressed that they feel morale is up, and there has been positive feedback from students, parents, and teachers.

Standing Committees

Policy & Planning- Abby & Sue – No report

Finance-Dan – List of needs being developed for long-term plans.

Grant Writing & Development-Delfina – No report

Buildings & Grounds-Paul – He & Bob are going to do a building assessment in June. He will look at roof, air handlers, etc. and prioritize list of needs and a rough estimate of costs.

Reports

SAPA/Marketing -Maggie – SAPA has donated a lot of money for field trips, the new server, outdoor classroom, 8th graders' graduation materials, and teacher appreciation week. They are waiting to see what

events we will be able to have next year (golf tournament, etc.) and will be trying to coordinate events more with parish and 7th graders. They will be discussing with Bob the dress down fundraisers. There are still positions open to chair events (grandparents' day, spirit wear, Halloween float?). There will not be an Applefest this fall because it is too late to start planning.

Athletic Association-Scott – No report

Website/Technology-Deacon Jay – We need speakers for the gym, so we will be looking at those. We also need to trouble shoot the voicemail system (they aren't going directly to email for some).

The board voted to meet July 14th instead of in June. Maggie will take notes for Chris, who will be out of town.

Scott motioned to adjourn at 7:13pm; Maggie seconded.

Submitted by Chris Brown, Secretary