

Saint Ambrose School Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 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, Dan Clasby, Sue Wickenhauser, Paul Braundmeier, Maggie Kohl, Scott Droste

Others Present: Bob Baird, Deacon Jay Wackerly

Opening Prayer - Chairperson Osborn opened the meeting at 6:01 pm and asked Mr. Baird to lead the group in prayer.

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

Principal's Report:

- Mr. Baird reported the upcoming events:

Next week the upper grades will resume adoration.

No school Monday, January 18, 2021, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,

January 25-27 will be the dates for MAP testing (Reading on Monday, Math on Tuesday, and Science on Wednesday). Results will be sent to parents in pdf form in early February.

Mirror the March, which coincides with the national March for Life, will take place on January 29th in the lower parking lot. There are tentative plans for praying the rosary and possibly a song or two by the Middle School Choir.

- 2nd Quarter & Report Cards – Friday, January 8th, was the end 2nd quarter. We extended deadlines by a week due to remote learning. Report cards will be available January 22nd.
- ACRE Testing, which is the religious education assessment that all Catholic schools and PSR programs in the diocese take, will be between February 1-12 for 5th and 8th grades. Specific dates will be decided soon.
- The Cash Bash fundraiser was a success, and Mr. Baird thanked SAPA and Maggie Kohl for their efforts. The fundraiser made over \$20,000 profit even though all 500 tickets were not sold. We are looking forward to continuing this as a live event in future years.
- We are in the process of setting up FACTS/RenWeb and are hoping to have it in place by the end of February for registration for next school year. The other components (besides registration) will be implemented next year.
- 2021-2022 Registration – Bob presented a comparison of area private schools' tuition & fees. The Finance Council will be looking at numbers and deciding on a possible increase for next year. Bob has looked at the subsidy rate, which is the cost of educating a student that is not covered by tuition. The diocese recommends a subsidy rate in the low to mid 30%. Due to the pandemic, we were up to the 40s. Bob wants to find a number that the parish can be comfortable with, and possibly plan to do that on an

every-other-year basis. This was the 4th year that we have not had an increase, so it is likely we will see an increase. We had received PPP money for the first round, and that helped offset some of the \$300,000 expected deficit, but we do not know yet if the second round will bring any more financial help. Dan said the parish collections are down as well. Julie expressed some concern about raising tuition due to families being financially hurt by the pandemic, and she wants to make sure that we stay competitive. Maggie said it is reasonable to expect a regular increase (every other year). She suggested creating a wish list for programs that we need at the school. Paul said he thinks it would be a good idea to be up front with families and let them know that they can expect tuition increases at a regular interval. Dan added that we have had a problem with families not registering until right before the school year, which makes it very difficult to plan for staffing and budgeting. He said that maybe we should revisit the idea of offering some incentive for registering early. Maggie suggested finding a sponsor for an early bird raffle. Bob said he would work on these ideas, and Dan will pass our thoughts on to the Finance Council.

- **Sacramental Parent Meetings** – There have been meetings with the parents of 3rd graders, who will receive First Eucharist and Confirmation this year, and the parents of 2nd graders, who will receive Reconciliation this year. This year's 2nd graders will receive Eucharist and Confirmation next year.
- **Saints Helping Heroes** – In December we had a nice collection for Toys for Tots and for veterans. We will continue this program with different themes each month.
- **Snow Days/Inclement Weather Days** – We will do remote learning instead of snow days. It may be an amended or shorter day, but there will still be learning.
- **Internet Upgrades** – Charter is supposed to be do a site survey, and we will be going to fiber optic Internet. The upgrade is costly but necessary.
- **The Security Camera Project** will be finalized at Finance Council meeting with the approval of the contract. We are expecting a mid-February installation.
- **Temperature in the classrooms** – We have been opening windows for increased ventilation, so we encourage kids to dress in layers. Although we have not had issues yet, that could change if temperatures get significantly colder. Paul recommended rather than opening one window all the way, that we open several slightly.
- **Catholic Schools' Week** is the first week of February. We are looking at activities such as Saints Day, Student Day with trivia, and Staff Appreciation Day. The final schedule should be out by this Friday.
- There is a \$15,000 Schreiber Match Scholarship Fund available in the diocese. If schools can raise \$15,000 for scholarships, the fund will match that amount. Maggie suggested possibly putting that on our wish list in case a parishioner would like to contribute.

Uniform Policy - Leggings – After looking at St. Mary's policy and our current policy, we are considering a policy that states that if tights, leggings, or yoga pants are worn, a skirt, shorts, or shirt reaching mid-thigh must be worn over them. The board will consider this new wording and vote on it next month.

Volunteer Accident Waiver – Deacon Jay had brought up possibly needing this type of waiver for volunteers. After looking at one that a business uses, the board agreed that we don't want anything with too much legalese or one that would discourage anyone from volunteering. Maggie suggested adding an acknowledgement of risk to the document parents sign that states that anyone volunteering understands that there is a risk of injury and that they have insurance. Bob suggested asking Pat King his opinion, and he said he and Jay would take care of that. We will discuss again at the next meeting.

Board Members whose 3-year-term ends in June (Dan, Julie, & Sue) will need to let Julie know by March if they are planning to renew their term or not. If any of the three do not want to renew their term, Julie will put a notice in the bulletin.

Standing Committees

Policy & Planning- Abby & Sue – Abby is working on the leggings policy.

Finance-Dan

Grant Writing & Development-Delfina

Buildings & Grounds-Paul

Reports

SAPA/Marketing -Maggie – She is working on the “Why St. Ambrose?” campaign. She would like to capture students’/graduates’ achievements as well as focus on faculty – certifications, higher degrees, opportunities for professional development, catechesis training, etc. She would also like to include testimonials, information about extra programs, and information about the parish community. She is open to ideas.

Athletic Association-Scott – Sports are on hold for now, but we are hoping there could be some spring sports.

Website/Technology-Deacon Jay

At 7:20pm Scott motioned that we adjourn, and Maggie seconded.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

Submitted by Chris Brown, Secretary