

**Saint Ambrose School Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 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, Fr. Steve Janoski

**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 February minutes that were emailed. There being no changes, Scott moved to accept the minutes as presented. Paul seconded the motion. With no dissent, the Chair indicated that the February minutes were approved as shared.

**Principal's Report:**

- Calendar:
  - 3/12 – 3rd quarter ends
  - 3/19 – Report cards open
  - 3/19 – Pre-K conference day
  - 4/1 - 4/6 – Easter break
  - 4/8 – Chris Cakes Breakfast rescheduled (Fat Tuesday Breakfast was canceled due to the snow day)
- Policy Updates – The updated policies for volunteers and dress code will be added this summer for next school year.
- Registration Update – Online registration opened March 1. Office personnel thinks this is a good month to have registration. As of March 10, we have 48 registered, and 8 new families are in the process of registering. Additionally, there 6-7 potential new families that have inquired or taken tours. We are also hopeful that some of our families that left this past year due to the pandemic will return for next year.
- Stations of the Cross – Students are leading Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. This is a live-streamed event with a slideshow/audio, and there are handouts for those in attendance. Mr. Baird feels that this is going well.
- Athletic Eligibility – Eligibility is in effect with the return of sports, but we have not had any ineligible students so far.

- Math Curriculum – This past year we reinstated the Saxon math program; however, we just learned that Houghton Mifflin is not going to renew Saxon. The latest edition is 2018, and they will stop printing consumables in 2024. Rather than switching programs this quickly, Bob feels it will be better for students to maintain consistency and continue the Saxon program for at least another year. At that point, we can decide what we will do moving forward. He will be having conversations with St. Mary’s and Marquette (resuming next week), and he believes we can gain valuable information from St. Mary’s since they have been researching a new program. He added that our faculty and school board will have input.
- Saints Helping Heroes – The focus for March is the Madison County Sheriff’s Office. The program will be taking food and gift cards to them to show our gratitude for their service.
- MCHS Entrance Exam – Marquette awarded 11 scholarships to the students who scored in the top 10% of the entrance exam. Two of these scholarships went to students from St. Ambrose (out of the 9 who took it).
- Virtual Open House / Open House videos – Our Open House will be virtual this year, but tours are available for new families. Teachers will make videos for others, and these should be released in the next week or two.
- Class Field Trips – Our Response Team decided that our students may be able to participate in class field trips this spring. The 8th graders will be attending Space Camp April 20-22, and the 7th graders will go to Springfield (hopefully one of the same days the 8th grade is gone). The 6th grade is looking into an outdoor service project locally.
- Graduation Events – Our Response Team decided to hold graduation events in-person, with precautions in place to do so safely.
- Emergency Drills – We still need to conduct a lockdown drill, and we are waiting for better weather for that.
- ACRE Test results – The 5th and 8th graders took the ACRE test (religion assessment required by the diocese), and the results have just been released. Bob will be attending a webinar soon on how to interpret the scores, and he will report the results after that.

### **Other business**

Julie asked about spectators at sports events. Bob said the limitations were set because some locations are smaller. They decided to go for consistency between locations, so they decided no spectators at first.

Maggie asked for more information about registration. Our current enrollment is 240 students (170 families) in PK-8th. Kindergarten for next year looks like it will have good numbers – we registered 4 new students in the last week who do not attend our pre-K. Pre-K looks healthy for next year too. Maggie asked about a remote plan for next year, but Bob said he cannot answer that yet since we will have to wait for guidelines from the CDC & IDPH.

There was a question about whether there had been any feedback regarding the increased tuition. Bob said he has not received any feedback.

### **Standing Committees**

*Policy & Planning- Abby & Sue*

*Finance-Dan* – Finance Council is still looking at long range planning, so if we have any ideas for bigger dollar projects, we should share them with the committee. One suggestion was a scrolling marquee.

*Grant Writing & Development-Delfina*

*Buildings & Grounds-Paul*

### **Reports**

*SAPA/Marketing -Maggie* – there are going to be some SAPA board positions open for next year.

*Athletic Association-Scott*

*Website/Technology-Deacon Jay* – Charter should be out next week for the fiber network, and the security cameras should be installed soon after.

Scott motioned to adjourn at 6:32pm, and Abby seconded. With no dissent, Chairperson Osborn adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Submitted by Chris Brown, Secretary