

**St. Patrick School Board Meeting  
May 14, 2024**

**“We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!”**

**Present:** Cheryl Baker, Erin Pung-Caszatt, Melinda Fandel, Jeff Fedewa, Ashley Kliewer, Brenda Lenneman, Krysten Rosendall, Connie Vallier, Christine Wilcox, Nancy Wohlscheid, Mrs. Smith, Deacon Randy Hodge

**I. Opening Prayer (Krysten)**

**II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Ashley moved to approve April 2024 school board notes; Krysten seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**III. Parent Comment (Brooke Simpson)**

Brooke Simpson addressed the school board to request participation in sixth and seventh grade sports for her home-schooled children. She expressed her children's desire to play sports at St. Patrick School.

**IV. Old Business**

A) Executive Session Regarding Home School Student Participation in Sports

Discussion regarding home school participation in sports brought forth the following talking points:

- \* Athletics are school-run, not parish-run.
- \* Athletics are an extension of the school.
- \* 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade sports participate in the Lansing area Catholic Youth League.
- \* Catholic Youth League is not part of MHSAA, it is community-based participation..
- \* St. Patrick School membership with MHSAA begins in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \* No school with MHSAA membership allows home school students to participate without a hybrid model.
- \* St. Patrick School risks additional recruiting rumor scrutiny.
- \* Other athletic options exist within the Grand Rapids and Lansing areas.

After much discussion the policy recommendation is home school students may participate in sports through 6<sup>th</sup> grade which includes 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' and boys' basketball as well as girls' volleyball through the Catholic Youth League. Participation also includes 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade football through the Central Michigan Eight-Man Football League. TRAP participation is also allowed because it is a community organization. Connie will provide Father Mike Alber with an executive summary and six pages of research on Thursday,

May 16 at 2 pm. Mrs. Smith and Deacon Randy Hodge will also attend the meeting. All school board members agreed with the policy recommendation. Connie will communicate with Brooke Simpson following Father's decision. Connie will also communicate the final decision to school board members.

## **V. Dissolution of the 2023-24 School Board**

Jeff is leaving the school board due to term limits and Connie thanked Jeff for his leadership with the Finance Committee and his service as Vice Chairperson. Connie motioned to dissolve the 2023-24 school board; Nancy seconded the motion and the motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.

## **VI. Opening of the 2024-25 School Board**

Deacon Randy Hodge officially opened the St. Patrick 2024-25 School Board at 7:40 p.m.

Cheryl nominated Connie to remain Chairperson of the St. Patrick School Board and Connie accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Brenda made a motion to keep Connie as Chairperson; Krysten seconded the motion and the motion passed. There were no abstentions or opposition. Deacon Randy Hodge turned the meeting over to Connie. Nancy nominated Brenda for Vice Chairperson of the St. Patrick School Board and Brenda accepted the nomination. Nancy made a motion to elect Brenda as Vice Chairperson; Connie seconded the motion and the motion passed. There were no abstentions or opposition.

Melinda Fandel has joined the school board and will serve on the Policy and Strategic Planning Committee.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A) Approval of the School Budget**

In February, V.2. of the budget was approved. Adjustments were made including updated salaries and benefits, updated enrollment, a new room for toddlers and a duplicated room for more infants. V.3. of the budget reflects 40.58% parish subsidy for elementary and high school. Overall, with the addition of childcare and preschool factored into the budget, the parish subsidy is 35.34%. The Shamrock Auction brought in an additional \$9,000. The budget was approved with one abstention.

### **B) Approval of Senior Polo Color**

A very well written letter from the Class of 2025 was submitted to the school board requesting the color orange for their senior polo shirt. The senior polo shirt was approved.

### C) Diocesan Survey

Connie will reach out to each committee so they can help complete the survey.

## VIII. Principals Report

Deacon Randy Hodge stated the Assistant Principal job posting closes on Friday. Interviews will be May 21; two people have applied. Deacon Randy invited school board members to commencement. Two high school students have been baptized since the last school board meeting and a third student will be baptized tomorrow. Fourteen students have been baptized since 2020. Adoration is open for students on Tuesdays at noon. Regarding athletics, the girls' track team is dominating meets. The boys' track team consists of freshmen and sophomores. The baseball team is 24-1 and undefeated in the league. The baseball and softball teams both won the Leelanau tournament. The golf team is doing well. TRAP is in second place for the conference. Athletics management is taking more time and so the school is trying to find more time for Mr. Russman or help for him.

Regarding Advancement and Development, Deacon Randy reported three of the four Mega Rock drawings have taken place and the fourth will take place during Summer Fest. The fourth edition of the *Shamrock Legacy* will be in the mail soon; this edition will not have a donation envelope. Deacon Randy would like to work on donor-level packages for businesses.

Mrs. Smith reported enrollment numbers are conservative because forms are slow for preschool and daycare. School tours continue. There are two external applicants for Assistant Principal. A new elementary teacher position will be posted; there will be two first grades and two second grades if enrollment dictates. Aaron Thelen is working on staffing. Preschool numbers look very healthy. The K-5 literacy night was sponsored by the Lancaster family. The fifth-grade retreat was a hit. There will be a sixth-grade orientation in early August. MAPS testing has been completed; interventions and support will be applied next year. Marcia McElroy will meet with the principals to review the student behavior rubric. The K-5 teachers are collaborating over a new curriculum.

## IX. Subcommittees

### A) Policy and Strategic Planning (Brenda and Melinda)

School board members reviewed the proposed policy updates for next school year (toys, skinny jeans and hair) Admission language will be added to the handbook. Changes were voted on and passed with one abstention. Brenda will change "may" to "will" in the dress code policy.

### B) Mission Effectiveness (Christine)

The fifth-grade retreat was successful. The sixth graders spoke to them about friendship.

There was an all-school assembly on May 10 to honor the Virgin Mary. On May 17 there will be a half-day retreat for third and fourth grades. On May 30 the second grade will have a retreat.

C) Marketing and Communication (Ashley and Dana)

Ross Schneider is managing social media along with Dana and Marley. Top Ten Reasons to attend St. Patrick School will post during the summer. Baptism coupon is now \$550. Mrs. Smith will check with Amy Smith to get an update on baptism packets. Father Mike Alber would like a school booth at the Summer Fest. Mrs. Smith will reach out to the marketing committee regarding the booth.

D) Advancement and Development (Mr. Hodge, Erin and Krysten)

See Principals Report above.

E) Finance Committee (Cheryl)

Cheryl reviewed Strategic Plan updates for the Finance Committee. There were equitable changes to teacher salaries. Chromebooks will be replaced for applicable grades. Year-to-date incomes are on budget or better.

F) Executive Committee (Connie, Brenda and Nancy)

Connie reported per the Diocesan Spring Summit, all schools have to install filters on whatever water is consumed. There will be funding. Deacon Randy said the school has filters. The next Summit will be in November.

## **VIII. Review of Tasks and Assignments (Nancy)**

- 1) Connie will provide Father Mike with an executive summary regarding home school and athletics.
- 2) Connie will communicate the athletic decision to Brooke Simpson.
- 3) Connie will communicate the athletic decision to school board members.
- 4) Connie will complete the Diocesan Survey with the help of committee chairs.
- 5) Brenda will change wording in the dress code policy.
- 6) Mrs. Smith will check with Amy Smith regarding baptismal packets.
- 7) Cortney will reach out to the Marketing Committee

Closing Prayer (Connie)

Adjournment at 8:55 pm

Future School Board Meetings (2024/25):

August 6, 2024

October 8, 2024

December 10, 2024

February 11, 2025

April 1, 2025

May 13, 2025

Next school board meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

Notes provided by Nancy Wohlscheid

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