

**St. Patrick School Board Meeting
October 8, 2024**

“We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!”

Present: Cheryl Baker, Erin Pung-Caszatt, Melinda Fandel, Dana Hengesbach, Ashley Kliewer, Brenda Lenneman, Connie Vallier, Christine Wilcox, Nancy Wohlscheid, Mrs. Krausz

I. Opening Prayer (Christine)

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (Connie)

Dana moved to approve August 2024 school board notes; Erin seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

III. Parent Comment (Sara Dixon)

Delayed.

IV. Old Business (Connie)

A) Athletic Policy

Nancy will send the athletic executive policy regarding homeschooling to Janet Pung. The athletic policy allows home school students to participate in 5th and 6th grade athletics only because they are community-based teams. Students entering 7th grade become part of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) program Participation in the MHSAA begins in 7th grade and home school students are not allowed to participate in St. Patrick athletics.

B) Dress Code Changes

A change has been made in the dress code. Black leggings may be worn with skirts.

V. New Business (Connie)

The Diocesan Fall School Board Summit will take place on November 6th, both in-person and virtually. Connie pointed out this is a great opportunity to meet and share with our committee counterparts. Connie asked school board members to take time to sign up.

VI. Principals' Reports (Mrs. Krausz)

Mrs. Krausz asked if there were any questions regarding the submitted report. She reported that the new teacher assistants have begun working in the classrooms. Homecoming was a success. The daycare was inspected however we do not have the results. Preschool has high enrollment numbers. Mrs. Krausz stated there are no guidelines for out-of-dress code days

and no guidelines for length of shorts for physical education classes. Discussion followed. Brenda and Melinda will work on guidelines for these two issues. Mrs. Krausz has noticed that there is a policy in the handbook for tardies but tardies do not appear in the discipline rubric. Tardies will be added to the rubric including tardies during the school day not just the beginning of the day. Consistency is needed with cross referencing.

VII. Committee Discussion

A) Policy and Strategic Planning (Brenda and Melinda)

The Crisis Management Plan including the appendices is being reviewed. Mrs. Krausz name will be added to the plan. Handbook changes and clean-up will be moved to February in order to vote in April. This will allow parents to sign the handbook and return it with registration forms. Connie suggested all handbook changes be highlighted. Leggings will be added to the handbook and the color will be solid black. Each piece of clothing will be listed with approved colors. The Strategic Plan will be in year five next school year. Work should begin soon for a new five-year plan. School accreditation will take place in the 2026-27 school year.

B) Mission Effectiveness (Christine)

All middle school and high school students attend Adoration at least once monthly. Adoration takes place on Tuesdays from noon to 3 pm. With rotating schedules, sometimes an entire class may attend. Retreats were held in September for the high school men and women. A bible study is held on Wednesdays during lunch. On October 10th, the 7th and 8th grade girls attended a retreat. The Campus Ministry team is leading the rosary in October and the team will lead the Advent wreath lighting in December. Events and information are included in the school newsletter. Class newsletters include information on what is taught during religion classes.

C) Marketing and Communication (Ashley and Dana)

Continue to post social media messages regularly. Coaches submit information to Ross Schneider after games and matches. The committee wrapped up Ten Reasons to Attend St. Patrick School. Meet the Teachers, Teacher Assistants and Daycare Staff will continue on social media. Photos were taken on Dress Up Day and will be included on the big window facing Grand River Avenue. The committee is working to finish the establishment of a brand. Ashley will follow-up with Sarah Toepfer from the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

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

No report.

E) Finance Committee (Cheryl)

Updated some items in the Strategic Plan. Tuition revenue has not been reported yet for

August, so there is no report. Enrollment will be reviewed after count day. There have been many changes to staff since February. The 2024-25 budget includes a plan to replace Chromebooks for students in first, fifth and ninth grades. This year's budget also includes a 3% increase for teachers plus some additional increases for teachers to bring salaries to equitable levels. Father Mike is working with the administration to upgrade space for future growth.

F) Executive Committee (Connie, Brenda and Nancy)

There is some parental concern about standardized testing. Discussion followed regarding vendors and tests. The concern lies with the vendor. Connie attended the Father Flohe Foundation meeting and all is well.

VIII. Review of Tasks and Assignments (Nancy)

- 1) Nancy will send Janet the athletic policy for home school students.
- 2) Brenda and Melinda will work on dress code clarification.
- 3) Connie will let Harper Smith know about the dress code suggestion.
- 4) Ashley will contact Sarah Toepfer about branding.

Closing Prayer (Ashley)
Adjournment at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: December 10, 2024

Future School Board Meetings (2024/25):

February 11, 2025
April 1, 2025
May 13, 2025

Notes provided by Nancy Wohlscheid

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