

**St. Patrick School Board Meeting  
December 10, 2024**

**“We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!”**

**Present:** Cheryl Baker, Erin Pung-Caszatt, Melinda Fandel, Dana Hengesbach, Brenda Lenneman, Krysten Rosendall, Connie Vallier, Nancy Wohlscheid, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Krausz

**I. Opening Prayer (Dana)**

**II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (Connie)**

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

**III. Parent Comment (Sara Dixon)**

Absent

**IV. Old Business (Connie)**

None

**V. New Business (Connie)**

None

**VI. Principals' Reports (Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Krausz)**

One student has unenrolled due to a parent's deployment. Two new students, fifth and seventh grades, from St. Michael will be enrolling in January. Preschool currently has 47 students enrolled and one new student will be added in January. An interview for a new art teacher was conducted on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two part-time daycare positions will be posted soon. Theology of the Body continues every Monday at staff meetings. Professional development took place on October 18<sup>th</sup> and centered on analyzing data from formal assessments as well as monitoring student growth in NWEA/MAPS (Northwest Evaluation Association/Measures of Academic Progress) testing. Professional development also included intervention training with Daisy Cook from the ISD. High school teachers met in their Professional Learning Committee. Mrs. Smith attended the MANS (Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools) Conference on October 17 and 18. The disciplinary chain of command will be included in the next *Shamrock Legacy*. The *Shamrock Legacy* has been sent to the printer. Christmas cards have been mailed. The Christmas Program has been rescheduled to December 16<sup>th</sup>. Sixth and ninth grade students had a great retreat. BLAZE is a middle school (seventh and eighth grades) women's group which meets once a week to grow in faith. High school men's and women's groups meet on Wednesdays during lunch period. Pay It Forward Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success. Nikki Brown and the Campus Ministry Team will be delivering cookies to the homebound. A reading intervention program for grades DK-3 will be implemented to help struggling readers. The program

was developed by UFLI (University of Florida Intervention) and is phonics based. A Veteran's Day assembly took place on November 11. There will be a half day on December 20. Regarding the sports seasons, the Fall sports season is complete with three cross-country runners competing in state finals, TRAP placed first in the conference and Quiz Bowl took second place. The Fall sports banquet took place on December 2. The Winter sports season has begun.

## **VII. Committee Discussion**

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

Proposed dress code for gym attire and out-of-dress code days was drafted. Lengths will be the same for both, three inches above the knee. Leggings will be permitted; spandex will not be permitted. Mrs. Krausz is also working on some attendance changes to the handbook. Mrs. Krausz will edit the handbook updates for presentation and vote at the February school board meeting. The handbook will have a "record of changes" included. Parent handbook signoff will shift to earlier in the year during enrollment and will be electronic. Brenda and Melinda attended the Diocesan Summit and are ready to begin the next five-year strategic plan. The Grand Rapids Diocese hired the Meitler Consultants to conduct strategic planning studies at all parishes. Brenda will have access to school information.

### **B) Mission Effectiveness (Christine)**

Advent wreath lighting ceremony for the entire school was led by the Campus Ministry Team. Campus Ministry also led an all-school rosary in October. Big Rocks decorated cookies with Little Rocks in conjunction with St. Vincent DePaul Society. St. Vincent DePaul Society will deliver cookies to the homebound.

### **C) Marketing and Communication (Ashley and Dana)**

The committee continues to work on the branding template. They will report more at the February meeting.

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

No report.

### **E) Finance Committee (Cheryl)**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids sent an email updating the changes to minimum wage. Changes will take place on January 1 (\$10.56) and February 21 (\$12.48). Cheryl reported changes to this year's budget cannot take effect, but changes will be made in next year's budget. November statistics were received today. As of October, daycare is down four students, the toddler room is delayed two months, preschool is up seven students, elementary is down two students but will break even in January, and high school is

down five students. Overall, October income is positive \$10,900 after subsidy. The Mega Raffle and A & D donations are additional income, however, there are additional facility repairs. Cheryl will work with Marie to determine which facility repairs belong in the school budget. Year-to-date net loss is \$18,000. Regarding next year's budget, Cheryl will have the first draft at the February meeting including tuition rate approval.

F) Executive Committee (Connie, Brenda and Nancy)

Connie reported on the annual Diocesan Catholic Identity Survey. The survey is completed by three groups including students, staff and parents for K-8 and high school. All three groups at the K-8 and high school levels averaged between 3.95 to 4.5 on a 5-point scale. The survey affirms the school's work and addresses gaps. Comments are reviewed by the diocese and are not part of our reports. The diocesan summit participation was 50% virtual and 50% on-site.

Regarding parental concerns, the NWEA/MAPS testing vendor is affiliated with some corporations (sponsorships) who do not align with our Catholic teaching. This circumstance is a diocesan issue and there are no other options. Testing provides important data to assess our students. Another parental concern is the size of our third-grade classroom which is 24 students. A part-time aid is assigned to the classroom. Diocesan guidelines recommend class sizes up to 28 students.

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

- 1) Mrs. Krausz will edit and update the handbook.
- 2) Cheryl will ask Marie about facility repairs in regard to the school budget.

Closing Prayer (Krysten)  
Adjournment at 7:55 pm

Next meeting: February 11, 2025

#### Future School Board Meetings (2025):

April 1, 2025  
May 13, 2025

Notes provided by Nancy Wohlscheid

**“We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!”**