

## Minutes

In Attendance: Father Michael Wimsatt, Sister Marie Hannah, Kevin Blain, Lori Jarboe, Matthew Hobbs, Chris Bauer, Brandi Lusk, Greg Lee, Matthew Hobbs, Danika Peak, Leah Abang, Emily Graham

Absent:

- I. Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chris Bauer followed by an opening prayer by Father Michael Wimsatt. Roll call was completed via sign-in sheet. A motion to approve minutes from our previous meeting was approved by Kevin Blain and seconded by Lori Jarboe and passed unanimously by the Board. An introduction of visitors was conducted, including Leah Abang and Emily Graham as part of our discussion of new members. The key committees to be filled by new leadership and membership were Policy and Planning and Mission Advancement. The Executive Committee (Chris, Kevin, Lori, Sister Marie Hannah, and Father Michael Wimsatt) reviewed and recommended the candidates and the Board voted to approve Leah to lead the Mission Advancement committee and Emily to lead the Policy and Planning Committee. Motion was introduced by Kevin Blaine, seconded by Lori Jarboe, and passed unanimously by the Board.
- II. Visitor Comments: No visitor comments this session.
- III. Presentations:
  - A. Catholic Conference of Kentucky (Andrew Vandiver)
    1. School Choice Bill: Includes Catholic and Non-Catholic Schools
    2. Educational Opportunity Accounts: These are not vouchers. (i.e. Indiana uses vouchers. Kentucky is proposing tax credits for Catholic/Private Schools to supplement scholarship money. The goal is to incentivize donations to private schools. A 95% tax credit could raise 25 million dollars if implemented (up to 100 million if implemented across all counties). This is estimated to help approximately 7K more children to afford private schools statewide.
    3. HB 305 will grow the program to help more children. There are 24 co-sponsors, but none from Hardin county yet. The goal is to reach local legislators to request they represent the wishes of their constituents. Last year, the bill failed 45-52 to pass the bill to encompass all Kentucky counties. Representative Jim DuPlessis is a likely "yes" vote this year (retiring this year). Rep. Samara Heavrin voted "no" last year, a representative of Hardin and Grayson Counties. Nancy Tate, a Meade County Representative who is co-sponsoring, deserves our thanks. Russell Webber is a likely "yes" as he voted "yes" last year, a representative of Hardin County. The status of the bill from last year included the Kentucky Supreme Court agreeing to listen to the arguments. There is a trial court to remove the program, so the bill may be sent to the Supreme Court. Key arguments in favor of the program include the donations are private dollars, not public dollars, 100 million in tax dollars are already injected into the public school system, it is not a charter school bill, and all counties should be included vs. a small number of counties to make it constitutional. If Catholic schools close, that will increase the burden of educating those children on the state. (The "ask" is to reach out to local Hardin County representatives to get their support this year. Greg is talking to Representative Samara Heavrin this week. The Principal will assess if there needs to be a greater push for contacts.)

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Saint James families and staff, in partnership with our priests, parish and neighboring communities, inspire our students to:

~Be disciples and evangelize to others who may not know Christ or His Church~

~Become responsible leaders in service to others~

~Foster a love for life-long learning~

~Enter young adulthood as people of integrity, virtue and holiness~

#### IV. General Reports

##### A. Pastor

1. Father has been speaking with Father Jeff Hopper from the Meade County School District and had very positive engagement in discussing the bus question. Most parishes chip in to help fund regional schools, so the discussion was begun regarding parishes who would benefit from a SJS bus service to help finance that service. (Note: Brandy interjected that this question is set to go before their finance committee in June, but she is trying to get an earlier meeting if possible.) Options include Miller Transportation (they would hire the driver) or Heavy Quip based out of London, Ky. (awaiting an insurance quote from the Catholic -----) allowing us to hire our own driver. Kentucky Gives Day should help us fund the bus initiative. We estimate needing approximately 40-50K/year to run the program.

##### B. Principal

1. Sister reviewed the Blue Ribbon status and the need for a subcommittee for application work, MAP scores education and incentives, sharing that every grade and subject must be greater than or equal to 85%. We still have the Spring and Fall to meet this goal. Applications open in November and we are able to apply every 5 years after achieving Blue Ribbon status.
2. Two Sisters are visiting our school. Every year in the Fall and Spring, new sisters will come through our school. Additionally, Mother Anna Grace, Director of Education, will be doing observations.
3. The Passion Play will resume this year. April 13<sup>th</sup> evening will be open to the public. We will also be having a Lenten Mission Concert for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders with sacred music.
4. Boys basketball team members will be playing against staff members. The Bishop will be installed that same day.

##### C. Board Chair (Chris Bauer)

1. The Executive Committee needs to get back together to review new committee memberships.

##### D. PTO

1. Brandy reported that all PTO chairs are filled for next year. Morgan Barry is the new PTO lead.

##### E. Teacher Representative

1. Danika Peak reported the teachers were very grateful for the recent decision to increase salaries. She reported that main focus areas are curriculum growth YOY, MAP scores (and explaining the importance to parents, suggesting a video).

#### V. Standing Committee Reports

##### A. Finance (Draft Budget, Bus, Tuition Assistance): Kevin Blain

1. Scott Johnson did a great job of digging into the budget to make it clearer to understand and read.

##### B. Buildings and Grounds: Matthew Hobbs

1. The committee has been working on a maintenance manual and the budget for upcoming projects.
2. There will be a PowerPoint for the Building and Grounds updates during the Knight of News.
3. Some examples of progress that will be shared include HVAC set to go on only when needed vs. running all the time and parking lot and roof renovations.
4. Fish Fry will take place at SJS during Lent. A new fish was selected for this year.

##### C. Mission Advancement:

1. Retention of preschool and kindergarten children into later grades is a key focus.
2. Ideas: offer kindergarten scholarships, offer first year of tuition free with a commitment for a second year, increase communication and involvement with PS and K with the rest of the school
3. The parish pays/subsidizes approximately 30% of tuition costs. Tuition has not increased in 3 years for Catholic families and only 2.5% for non-Catholic families. We have approximately 240K in CEF and SJS tuition assistance.
4. The committee supports HB305 and scholarships.

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- VI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports
- A. Nominating
    - 1. New leadership on Policy and Planning and Mission Advancement committees; new members welcome to apply.
  - B. Safety: No Report
  - C. Health: Sister discussed COVID update (mask optional is working and we will continue to assess spacing of classrooms and lunchroom possibilities)
  - D. Blue Ribbon: The Board is in favor of forming this committee.
- VII. New Business (Knight of News)
- 1. Surveys will be offered in 3 forms: Google Form going out with the Knight of News invitation, paper form available at the event, and One Call
- VIII. Closing Comments/Prayer: Father closed the meeting with a prayer. Our next meeting is set for April 19<sup>th</sup>. (Update: Meeting moved to 04/25/2022.)

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