

**Lourdes Catholic School Advisory Board Meeting**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2024**  
**AGENDA OF REGULAR MEETING – IN PERSON (LIBRARY)**

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:04
  1. OPENING PRAYER (Fr. Jason)
  1. WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS Kate Hanell, Miranda Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Hanson, Brian Girskis, Brent Morlock, Katie Selden, Josh Mercer, Megan Wilkinson, Julie Rosales, Kristie Girskis, Ms. Alexa, Leanna Holmes, John Fernas, Stephanie Larson, Nick Helle, Tyler Rutledge, Fr. Dane, Fr. Jason.
  1. ROLL CALL
  1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Kris/Megan
  
0. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PAST MEETING Megan/Kate H.
  
0. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
  - a. Mrs. Katie Selden enrollment 308-302/Need 1st grade aid/3rd grade ELA 70 min/day/ LT music sub/sub teachers and paras. School picture day coming up, midterms, Book Fair, no school 10/14, need 1 more robotic coach. \$50,000 safety grant, working on playground grant due this week. (Nick H. offered to look for more national company grants for playgrounds) SBAR/SEL training for teachers. support new teachers within building mentors and AEA mentors. collaboration time for new ELA curriculum - secured subs for teachers to work together during the school day. FAST and Iready date coming in. Will use it to determine intervention and enrichment. Bridging SJV and LCS preschool programs for next year.
  
1. PASTOR'S NOTES
  - a. Pastor (Fr. Jason) Fall Festival after 10:30 am mass on 9/29. 9/27 Bishop ordination. Lots of weddings. Campaign organization. Finalized mission and vision statements for foundation. 3 big donors came in this week. CPT committee can confirm we secured a huge security grant to get more than 50 security cameras at SJOA. Current school has 12. (Nick H. could Bettendorf use a drone for extra security? Brent: we could but probably won't need to)
  
2. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
  - a. Teacher Report open house MS and K-5 expectations and curriculum plans for the school year. Student council for 4-8th grade will be finalized this week.
  - b. Home and School Report Donuts with Dad will be November 8th. Starry Night planning meeting is 9/23 at Bad Boyz Pizza. Same location as last year's event, on March 1st.
  - c. St. Joan of Arc update collection of pledges in progress. Total verified pledges \$18,096,463. Total verified gifts increased by %859,726 in the past 2 weeks. Still 6.4 M available in commemoratives. SJAF working on the following committees - grants, marketing, legacy, alumni, businesses. SJAF hired Development Assist. SJAF relying on volunteers; Nick Palczynski and Brad Boeye are revitalizing the campaign cabinet to continue fundraising. Website will soon show updates. SJAf has hired Tommy Fallon who also works part time at SJV, to build website content and assist with communication overall.
  - d. Athletic Director Report NA
  - e. Marketing Report NA
  - f. Faith Formation Report NA
  
0. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION
  
0. ITEMS NEEDING DISCUSSION, BUT NOT NECESSARILY BOARD ACTION (OTHER BUSINESS)
  
0. PUBLIC COMMENT / OPEN FORUM

Hansen: So this tuition increase has been approve already?  
Morlock: its not a tuition, its a building fee and yes it has been approved by the finance committee.

Hanson: you understand that there's a very good chance that you'll lose students and their income because of this fee. Instead of increasing enrollment and gaining all of this money from this fee, you could actually lose students because of it, and in turn, lose the income from their fees.. What is your back up plan?

Morlock: Both parishes would really have to scramble to make up the difference

L. Hanson: If you lose kids, will the same number of families still have to cover the total cost?

Morlock: there will hopefully be adjustments to the fee from year to year based on fundraising and additional debt pay-down.

K. Girskis: I think what Lis is asking, for example if we have 300 kids and we lose a bunch and go down to 200, will those 200 still have the \$750,000 somehow?

Morlock: Yes, that's the portion that school families is responsible for one way or another

L. Hanson: Our kids are here because of ESA and we will not be able to afford a \$4,000 fee next year. Honestly you are not the only catholic school in the area, but you are the only Catholic school charging a fee. But you are the school where our hearts are. "ESA was the answer to our prayers--what happens when the fee is more than we can pay?"

Morlock: we understand and we feel for those families and there will be a scholarship fund

Hanson: that's great but we don't usually qualify for scholarships - we make just enough to not qualify, but not enough to be able to afford the fee.

B. Girskis: Could finance council meetings post when they are so that we can attend those?

Fr. Jason: those meetings aren't open to the public

Fernas: if finance meetings are closed, how are we not getting reports and hearing what decisions are being made?

K. Girskis: could we update the church website to list members of each parish council/committee? A lot of people have asked who is on these committees, or when do they meet and do they post minutes. Maybe you're not required to post minutes, but if you are, it would be great to post them, like we do, so people can take and look and keep up with what is being discussed.

F. Jason: yes the website is very out of date and needs updates

B. Girskis: could there be more open meetings?

Fernas: need more unification, more cross information or reporting

F. Jason: since SCCS opened up, there's a lot of shift in responsibilities

K. Girskis: We used to have a parish council rep on this board, even if they didn't attend, they could send a report. I don't see why we couldn't bring that back. And for sure, the same thing from SCCS, at least ask for a report, even if someone can't come to our meetings.

Helle: I was told the Parish Council had nothing to do with this fee. I'm willing to be in the line of fire but I think we are going to lose good people. I think we're missing a big piece and that's school families. Should be meeting w/ school, parish, SjoA, and finance council. Go back to the drawing board. What if the new bishop closes Lourdes the day after he comes on board?

Fr. Jason: I was not at the Parish Council, I was on a vacation. Parish Council should be involved and whoever said that is incorrect. We did 3 studies and everything we heard pointed us in the direction to move forward with the project. Parish leadership, school board said to move ahead. and go into debt. I'm surprised people are so upset that we're going to have debt. We haven't been great w/ communication. This building has 5 years. If we wanted to keep catholic education in Bettendorf we had to make sacrificial changes. We're going to do everything we can to reach out to people. All of the feasibility studies pointed to us being here. This is not a mistake. We need to be aware of all the falsities and chatter and rumors because that is what the devil wants. We're doing this for our children and for the community. We made the best decision we could. Are there things we didn't do right? When all of the change happened with SCCS and ESAs it made the process harder. We are doing everything in our power to bring the money in. It's easy to tear things apart when you haven't been a part of this process from the beginning. The committees will be here next month and be as prepared as possible.

Helle: Thank you Father for saying all of that, I think that's what we all needed to hear and I think it would be for something like that to be said to the parish as a whole. I believe in this church and I believe in this school.

Rutledge: I understand a shortfall in fundraising but was this always the intention that we would have to fill the gap by paying this fee?

Morlock: H&S has a lot of ideas that could help offset the cost for each family.

Helle: I remember way back when we were looking into this school and church project and we came up with a price tag and it was decided that the school would go first. I think a lot of people assumed there would be a longer campaign and a follow-up debt pay-down campaign before you would build and open the school. Instead we're not doing the 2nd phase pay down campaign and we're just billing families.

Rutledge: I understand you have a shortfall and if you have a shortfall you have to make up the difference. If this goes the wrong way this is a death spiral.

Hanell: I think what could help is having more details on the scholarship. Speaking from the perspective of an IL family who doesn't qualify for ESA, it would be good to know exactly what the qualifications are for the scholarships and not have any more surprises.

Morlock: Honestly that's why we keep putting off formally presenting this topic because we want to have as much of this information available all at once.

Other notes captured:

- What are the qualifications for scholarships? Will they be available for families who do not usually qualify?
- Who is the Parish Council? The Finance Council?
- What's the structure of our organization?
- Can't this be a conversation instead of being told how things are going to be?
- Parents are not on the committee that is making the decisions and the silence is hurtful
- We need a debt paydown campaign—another phase
- Was it our plan to have a shortfall?
- Can we have the facts and not be surprised?
- feel directed and 'silenced'
- Home and school is going to find ways to help

0. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY) – The Board will go into a closed session this month

0. ADJOURNED: 7:35

BOE Meeting Schedule: 2<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm (except as noted). Please note that with the planned move in next summer we have decided to forgo the June meeting and meet in July to prepare.

2024

August 27 (5 P.M.)

September 17

October 8

November 12

December 10

2025

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

July 15