

October 28<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Brad opened with prayer

Steve Dollear and Laurie Montplaisir kicked off the meeting with update on dispensary.

Laurie thanked the School Board and Fr Brad for his impactful approach to the dispensary attempting to open in our neighborhood. (Julie referred to steps that the School has taken to date – see at the end of this section.) Retainer for attorney was expensive and they secured a less-expensive attorney to help plan for the hearing in November. He will lead legal effort and will be in touch with Fr. Brad and Diana. We are against a well-funded, strong adversary. We are the underdog in this battle and we may lose on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The reality is that time is short and we have less than a month to plan for this. Working closely with him to make every day count. Legal piece led by the lawyer; Alderman Dowell's support for our opposition to this is critical, though she has not taken a position on this. She is tracking emails and letters sent to her and she tracks by name and address. We are not limited to OSM community, but Diana's email garnered over 300 signatures. Steve asked for dedicated email blasts from the school so work in parallel with legal proceedings. Distraction due to Covid is causing people to not be aware of this dispensary at 1420 S. Michigan. Our opposition effort are focusing on guns and safety. Alley is too dangerous.

Diana said Fr. Brad has more information and Diana spoke of a man taking pictures of kids who said he was an attorney for the school. Communication regarding something like that is appreciated.

It was clarified that the attorney is not representing Old St. Mary's School and that the school is not paying for this attorney. The attorney is not representing the school, he is representing a group of parents who wish to retain him.

Jose asked what the River North did that we can do; we have less time, etc. and less money. Jose asked how we can apply tactical approach from that case to ours.

Fox 32 and Univision ran stories; working with alderman and community.

Laurie echoed that it involves Alderman support and community support. Paula shared the fact that Related Realty proposed the new L stop at 15<sup>th</sup> and Clark. Paula went to zoning board meeting and worked with Alderman Dowell. Paula said she ended up opposing it; Alderman is diligent about tracking emails, etc.

Julie thanked Steve and Laurie for their effort.

Chris Kelly asked if we are still on the hunt for expansion to lease spaces? Archdiocese sent an inspector to look at our school to see if we need additional space or if we can do something for lunch space. 4 grade levels very much packed in.

### **School/Parish - steps taken re: dispensary**

- **September:** Laura Vinci reaches out to parents, gathers questions, and meets with dispensary owner as the first step of fact-finding. Laura provides summary to School Board and it's an agenda item in the September 30 meeting
- **October 4:** Fr. Brad hosts parish community town hall to share information and listen to the parish and school
- **October 10:** Parish statement opposing the dispensary is communicated to parish and school
- **October 11:** OSM School Board statement and information for parents sent to OSM parent community
- **October 11:** Dispensary information included in Diana's Sunday night update
- **October 20:** Separate email goes out to parents about how to learn more and oppose the dispensary
- Fr. Brad has multiple calls with the Archdiocese (and their lawyers)
- Diana has calls with the Archdiocese
- Fr. Brad has had direct conversations with Alderman Dowell about the OSM opposition
- Diana has had conversations with Alderman Dowell's office
- Diana reached out to State Representative Lamont Robinson who contacted Alderman Dowell on our behalf

### **Financial Vitality/Blue Ribbon Fund**

Mary Martin Lowe was involved in the launch to build the Blue Ribbon Fund for the 2020-21 school year.

Thoughtful approach to promote the BRF during these difficult times, but also want to contribute to tuition assistance since Octoberfest was not in person and we have a significant amount of need for such (more than in prior years).

Email and Instagram blast, information sheets and letters and all efforts are directing people to go to online giving. Mary demonstrated the ease of donating online.

OSM home page, Giving, Annual Fund—description and information sheet. Click on button to donate, Shannon linked through Give Central so it supports parishes efforts to get more people to give to the parish through Give Central. You can set up a Give Central account, etc. Can set up a one-time give or pledge.

Talked about development team and procedures to lay out all steps for future.

Julie thanked Mary for her hard work on this and we all look forward to hearing more about this in the future.

### **Academic Excellence**

MAP scores, Diana updated the board.

No Development Director since Kimberly Marrinson. Alumni relations and working with businesses, etc would be the role for this person. We have not filled it, but interviewed right before the pandemic hit. Have since pulled back and she is not in a place of being ready to rejoin. Enrollment director candidate also needing to be filled since Naomi is moving and transitioning out of her role.

Overall data is good, but seeing opportunities for growth in areas of math and reading for some students. There is grade-level data summary available, but it is confidential. Content-area teacher leaders meet to identify goals based on data from ASPIRE 2019 scores, recent MAP scores and 5 essentials survey. Arch pulls together the data and asked to establish 3 goals—academics, faith formation and organization.

Sent home test cores to parents for transparency. Parents were surprised that grading didn't necessarily match the achievement scores.

Prepping students well for high schools and continued growth.

Diana: teacher leaders think about preparing kids for high school, we know what their transcript looks like is critical. Grades are high stakes. We know grades matter and the most important thing is for students need to know how to get in AND be successful after they are in the schools of their choice.

Teachers digging into test data to see where they need to modify instruction.

Leadership can focus on academics and faith formation can help. Can we have a parents night on how to support kids academically, workshops, etc.

Chris offered help to energize the theme with parents. Diana asked Chris if there are 1-2 people who want to sit on school improvement team to assess recommendations

### **COVID Update**

Four classes quarantined and there is additional risk that the school may have to close if one or more classes are required to quarantine. Teachers and students are going back and forth between in-person and remote learning/instruction, which is consuming for OSM staff such as Maria and Beth. We proposed to the Arch that we go to e-learning between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Instead they proposed after January break. Very tough on morale and supporting teachers when they cannot be with their families. Quarantining before and after the holidays is a challenge.

### **Jen/FSA Communications plan**

Discussing ways the OSM community can get involved. FSA connects to committees, service projects, etc. The social committee to look at ways we can connect virtually. Brainstorming ways for parents to get parents involved in things like pickup.

How do we package this in a way for parents to get involved in all aspects?

Fr Brad: Parish Report

Fr. Sent a report for a Zoom for the Paulist Visitation and the survey questions. We will take the 3 big leadership groups to the Parish for a massive Zoom meeting with them, but may be split into two sub groups depending on when we can join. Fr. Will talk further to Julie and Laura. Will be a town hall zoom meeting to discuss Paulists.

Regarding re-opening: met for a few hours with Archdiocese. Cardinal's message regarding reopening: there have been more Covid cases among public schools than parochial schools, which have been stabilizing the environment. Gathering in public may impact Mass, teaching. Even as of yesterday, the public gathering doesn't affect us in Mass or school. Explosion of Covid cases, we would have to revert to remote masses again. Heartening messages overall. Still receiving reminders to stay on top of things.

Renew My Church groupings-6 phased openings has changed to 5. We are supposed to start in 2022, will be moved to March 2021, will mean different things to the 5 related entities. Last week is there is no travel ban on clergy, but Arch needs to know and provide clearance to clergy.

Maryellen asked: Do financial stewardship levels affect Renew My Church?