

**Old. St. Mary's
School Board Meeting
May 13, 2020
Zoom Videoconference**

Parish Update

Fr. Brad shared that they are awaiting guidance on the rollout of reopening of the parish. Will consider starting with small mass celebrations with the goal of opening for Sunday masses. The goal first and foremost is keeping the building clean and safe. Fr. Brad asked the Board to send him names of anyone interested in joining the re-engagement committee which will be looking at all of these issues. We have an advantage in that our mass times are fairly spread out to allow for social distancing between masses. Fr. Brad would like to hold a parish town hall when there is more information to share and when he can provide enough advance notice to allow people to plan to attend. The idea was shared to engage our middle school students in becoming involved in leadership activities like ushering, etc. Mark Apel offered his assistance in bringing the kids together in his role in social justice.

2020-21 Budget and Finance Update

Shannon walked the Board through the financials including the parish's application for PPP funding. She explained that the Archdiocese required all parishes to apply for PPP loan funding collectively with their parish schools. Our understanding is that the majority of parishes in the arch have received funding and intend to utilize the money due to the uncertainty of the next school year and how the COVID situation will affect enrollment, fundraising, financial assistance and unforeseen costs related to elearning. All funds in an 8 week period must be used for Payroll, Health & Benefits, and Utilities. Other unforeseen costs included unbudgeted items like masks, technology equipment, cleaning supplies (the cost of which has increased substantially).

Chris" raised that we use resources in a reasonable way. The \$604K equates to nearly 70 students do we anticipate 2 full classes not returning? We will always find a need for the money; companies shut down by the government, Chris doesn't think it's right to take it.

Not taking it might impact our fundraising (i.e. Oktoberfest). Diana feels there is potential to need some of it, not necessarily all of it, but that there is an "in between".

Paula: Governor, higher education admins say it's uncertain to go back in the fall. Agrees with Diana that parents of lower grades will not pay double for home care for their children plus tuition. We need to keep in mind that it is likely we will not return in the fall.

Fr. Brad shared that a Pastoral Council person asked about childcare for students over the summer. Can we do a program for summer for working families. Perhaps we can add it to our burner, what if PreK isn't back in the fall, is there a way to help parents out, etc.

Diana welcomes oversight as to how we can use money. It has been deposited, payroll is made and bills are paid. We can report monthly at School Board meetings and we can guide in the future. Diana proposes providing reports and welcoming guidance from the Board or School Finance or both. We have until June 26th, at which point we might know what fall looks like, etc. Up to 100K in financial aid. Naomi spoke with a few families that still need to apply. Few families re: to aftercare and struggle to pay. Taking that into consideration since they can't pay from this past school year. 50-60K more is possible, but very much unknown.

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Fr. Brad shared that the Parish Finance Council and School Finance Sub-Committee of the Parish Council are looking at this and will brief the School Board. The Parish Finance Council will make the final approval of how funds are used. Julie asked Fr. Brad to share the School Board's point of view and recommendation of using the funds. Fr. Brad agreed to share the Board's recommendation with the Parish Council when they meet in the next week.

Hiring & Staffing

Faculty meeting 5/13; morning and noon sessions. All info has been shared with staff. Leadership changes, went down to 2 Assistant Principals last year in order to use the extra salary for teacher leaders. Adding new teacher leaders, not adding an AP. Currently 1 AP who serves as counselor and AP, not good for kids, not good model and both are FT jobs. It has made it difficult. Have not had adequate social emotional support for the kids. The ratio of 500:1 is not ideal. Separating out for next year. AP will focus on instruction and we will have a counselor. Hiring a young man who came up through Catholic school systems/NW side/Arlington Heights. Great recommendations where he is interning now. New AP will be Sheridan Geller, contract has been signed. She worked at OSM and left for U of C and didn't want to leave OSM; her focus was on instructional coaching to help teachers achieve potential and work with teachers. Focus will be on differentiating between the classrooms. Students who have learning needs will be pulled out and worked with separately; now kids will be working in the classroom - a more inclusive model.

Maram Sweis will continue as AP for curriculum. Elizabeth Duff, 6th grade will continue on with half of her position will be ELA instructional coaching.

6 staff not returning, some contracts were not renewed. All teachers who have been asked to return are coming back, except for 2, who will take positions close to home. Some teachers are moving to new roles or shifting grade levels.

Diana discussed ideas for making our foreign language program more effective. Graduates have not been placing into Level 2 language when moving into high school. The reality is that 2-3 times a week instruction isn't enough to achieve proficiency.. It is not adding value to 2-3 days of language a week and having to start over in high school. Language after school possible. Online learning + instruction after school. Another area change is that rather than having tech as a special all teachers are incorporating technology in their instruction. Parents are no longer making requests for classrooms or teachers. Teachers will prepare balanced classes looking at roster based on needs, learning styles, and every child will have an equal chance. No room for subjectivity or favoritism.

Julie asked for recommendations on School Board members to be added for the 2020-21 academic year. Task Team meeting on 5/21; Julie will send an invitation to the School Board group. Mary Lowe stepped up to prepare a year-end communication to all parents and community about the Strategic Plan coming to life over the past year. Pictures related to our pillars are welcome for video.