

**Old St. Mary's School  
School Board Meeting – September 30, 2020**

**Fr Brad Opened with prayer**

**Back to School updated provided by Diana**

**Health Update:** No COVID outbreaks at school. No one knew what this time of year would look like, but 209 students and/or staff have been sent home or stayed home due to illness. This is higher than normal for this time of year, but the new protocol has presented a challenge for leaders as children and staff have been back and forth. The “in between” group has been challenging to think about due to devices and material needed. Great care has been taken to provide the safest setting possible for our students, teachers and staff.

One PreK class quarantined due to staff member being Covid positive. Masks have been very easy for kids and staff. Reminders are necessary every now and then, but kids are doing well. Dropoff protocol is nearly on schedule with last year. It has been considerably streamlined, 30 mins in the morning for K-8 with PreK coming in the last 15 minute.

**Academic priorities:** It is a relief to begin focusing on education more than protocols as they are in place. Testing all students is underway to get a sense of loss of understanding, achievement during Covid. Started this week and will continue. Reading, language, science and math. MAP test is taken for selective enrollment; kids taking them are getting a look and feel for MAP. Gives key understanding of students in 4 areas. Diana is turning to look at instruction and achievement. Nationally, students taking test might have a decline, but very rough estimate looks like about 90% of students at OSM do not show evidence of a decline in math. Saw some decline in science. Will send scores home so parents can see growth and school will use to target skill areas for reteaching purposes. Will do reading fluency tests and progress monitoring. Will focus on standards, instruction and grading. Grading practices are being looked at; some inflation in some areas. Have seen situations where grades have been punitive and/or inflated. Want to make sure we grade students on standards and not behavior, etc. Focused on 8<sup>th</sup> grade prep, making sure ready for placement tests. Started test prep class this week, taught by teachers. This year for the first time, social/emotional classes will be offered. Emergency plans in Covid environment, but Arch is putting out guidelines for practice; classes will practice individually not all at once. Staff dedicated to teaching in class and at home. Most schools are not in person like we are and trying to think of ways to support them, give them food, money, etc.

**Old St. Mary's School  
School Board Meeting – September 30, 2020**

What is the general reaction to teachers regarding the school year? People/staff are mixed as some feel 100% confident, some nervous. Going from home, protected and suddenly have 500 people in close proximity was traumatic for teachers. No flexibility for hybrid model with Arch. Unlike most public schools where teachers are represented by unions, administrators, parish and parents need to make sure we advocate for teachers. Respect is paramount with teachers who need flexibility. Six middle school teachers at home teaching, some colleagues and some parents have made it difficult to navigate. Have difficulty telling someone uncomfortable coming to teach in person that they cannot.

Started with 18% e-learning and now students are returning. Archdiocese sent out a directive on Monday saying that we can't let kids come back after October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be down to 10% at the end of next week.

Kurt: did Arch talk to you about hosting. Is grading by department? Is one curriculum different than others. It's more consistent (93/85 changed to align with high schools around us), but Diana has seen the need for work in fairness and accuracy based on what they know. Extra credit, behavior, grades need to convey standards and attainment of standards.

Question: Two parents went to Arch regional director. Connected to an employee who has children in the school. Doesn't believe a colleague should be able to be home right now. Middle school forums included concerns about babysitters in the room, etc. Instructional supervisor following the teacher's schedule all day. Others are qualified people to be in that position. Have not lost teachers. Technology in middle school was a challenge, but this has since been resolved with new equipment.

Will 6 teachers teach remotely all year? Cannot convey to parents about return dates.

**Dispensary near school:** With the School completely focused on opening the school under the Arch's guidelines, Laura met with the owner of the proposed dispensary in mid-September to ask him questions that have been raised. Laura briefed the Board on her interview with Neal McQueeny who is the owner of the dispensary. School Board members were asked the week prior to provide feedback to Fr. Brad and everyone is encouraged to continue to send questions and concerns to Fr. Brad. Members

**Old St. Mary's School  
School Board Meeting – September 30, 2020**

of the Board provided feedback to Fr. Brad with their thoughts. Fr. Brad wants to open the dialogue to the entire parish including the school so that feedback can be provided and heard by all members of the OSM community. A full OSM parish town hall will take place on Sunday with Neal for parishioners to ask questions.

**Fr. Brad Parish Update:** School Finance Subcommittee was created to deal with numbers of school/parish. Reports to Finance Committee who is responsible for actual numbers. This is a newer committee. We will look at detail, background, numbers with regard to enrollment, tuition, etc. How does this all balance? Discussion of how Catholic ID comes into play, impact of tuition, etc. Thinking about tuition—trying to figure out for the next school year. We don't know where Covid is going, impact from a lot of direction. Discussed possibility of not raising tuition or only do cost of living percentage. We need to see revised budgets based on last fiscal year and going into year ahead. PPP in question-Dawn showed forms; Dawn and Shannon are currently working on it.

Would it make sense for John Thurston (School Finance Sub-Committee & Co-chair of the FVTT) and Mary Lowe (Co-chair of the FVTT and the School Development Committee) to attend the next School Board meeting to present on the work that's being done on School Finance Subcommittee as well as Blue Ribbon Fund. Makes sense to ask them to come, but their work doesn't have to be recreated on SB side. Total PPP for Parish and school was in the \$900s. Highest percentage for school. Fr wants to invite us all to Paulist campaign to build Paulist Fathers virtual groundbreaking on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Invited to attend-every foundation will do an award to a local community award. Someone is selected. Will be announced in the next week or so. Starting to raise money for the campaign, \$20 million. Before Covid, they started to talk to OSM parishioners about it. We want to have a % of the campaign to help us pay off funds for condo. Goal for parish might be to donate "bells of St. Mary's". For seminary and retired fathers. Talent show will be included. Leaders will do a visitation at OSM. Fr. Will send out a form to meet with leadership group, taking place 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November.

Next meeting is October 28<sup>th</sup>.