

State of School Meeting Minutes

Our school meeting held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 provided information to the ICS community including purpose of the School Advisory Council (SAC), Home School Association (HSA), the Organizational Support Staff reporting to the Principal, learning expectations for students. In addition, discussed future plans for 2021-2022 school year and reopening plan for September. We had an open dialog addressing outstanding questions and concerns from the parents. Encouraged all parents to participate in school functions and how important school community participation is for our school to achieve its goals. Father Jay thanked everyone for coming and opened meeting with prayer.

Some highlights shared:

School Mission Statement:

Mrs. Fortunato talked about the importance of the school's mission statement.

Immaculate Conception School exists as a gift to God's children, to prepare them to live with Jesus the Good Shepherd as their teacher and friend. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, and through the intercession of Mary, the school seeks to foster in each student spiritual growth, academic excellence, and moral integrity.

School Advisory Council Members 2021-22 (SAC) Mrs. Fortunato introduced our new President, Trish Trecartin. Trish introduced herself and is ready to get started in her new position. Mrs. Fortunato explained that the School Advisory Council shares in the governance of the school by supporting leadership w/ continuous development activities. SAC is critically engaged in strategic planning for the school's future.

SAC Council

Pastor – Father Jay Toborowsky

Principal – Mrs. Connie Fortunato

President (New)- Mrs. Trish Trecartin

Vice President – Mr. Larry Meo

SAC Members

Mrs. Annamarie Reilly
Mrs. Linda Okupski
Mr. Benny Morten
Mrs. Susan Geiger
Mr. John Paciga
Mr. Mike Dwyer

New Committee members to be added:
1-Finance – TBD
2-Development -TBD

HSA Mrs. Fortunato introduced **Home School Association**

Upcoming HSA events: Pizza party/June

“Walk for Technology”

Fall Fest

Rick and Christine Benson thanked all parents for participating in events.
Explained that the parents are the HSA.

Home School Association

*Presidents: Rick and Christine Benson

*Vice President: TBD

*Treasurer: Mike Scotillo

*Corresponding Secretary – Sarah Yandoli

*Recording Secretary – Rebecca vanVolkenberg

*Hospitality – TBD

Support Committees:

*Marketing, *Parent Ambassadors, *Alumni

Mrs. Fortunato’s Organization Support Staff

Michael Szalecki, Business Administrator
Kevin Liszewski, Accountant
Maria Casserly, Administrative Asst.
Ceil Isbitski, Administrative Asst.
Nurse – full time
Kate Severson, School Counselor
Carolyn Pepperman, Special Services Coordinator
Teacher Leaders: PLC, Core subjects, S.T.E.M.
Monica Sharp, IT Support
Maintenance, Lead: Al Kielce
Cafeteria Staff, Lead: Joanie Campbell

Mrs. Fortunato described:

Student Learning Expectations for our children at ICS

Catholic Christian Who...

- *Clearly communicates the school's mission that embraces Catholic Identity rooted in Gospel values, centered on the Eucharist, and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.
- *Actively prepares and participates in liturgical celebrations.
- *Understands the teachings of the church and catholic doctrine.
- *Demonstrates knowledge of scriptures and traditions.
- *Practices service and stewardship outside the classroom.
- *Shows awareness and respect for all God's creation through care of the school community and global environment.

Responsible citizen who...

- *Explores, articulates and celebrates the customs and heritage of multicultural communities.
- *Works and interacts cooperatively, demonstrating tolerance, respect and fairness.
- *Understands the basic responsibilities of a citizen.
- *Participates in school and community events.

Academically prepared student who...

*Demonstrates basic skills and knowledge as defined by the state of New Jersey student learning standards, diocesan curriculum standards, 21st century skills, and Gospel values, implemented

*Reads, writes and verbalizes effectively.

*Uses and applies current technology.

Life-Long Learner who..

*Assesses their own strengths and areas for improvement.

*Applies organizational, research and study skills.

*Practices problem solving and demonstrates critical thinking.

*Practices good health and hygiene habits.

Immaculate Conception School commits to formation in the following areas: **Faith, Intellect, Leadership, Integrity and Service... developing the “whole child”**.

Mrs. Fortunato quoted one of Stephen Covey’s tenets; “***think with the end in mind***” She said, “ICS administration and Faculty are always thinking ahead when educating our students.”

A parent in the audience asked if ICS would be using the new curriculum that was approved for public schools in the fall. Mrs Fortunato addressed the new Bill passed by the Senate and Governor’s office.

**The bill ([A4454](#)), was passed by the state Senate and Governor Murphy. As a result, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards have been updated. The new standards will promote “economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance.” ICS and all other schools within our Diocese will not include these updated standards in our curriculum.

We teach about diversity and being inclusive, but not according to the Bill and the prescribed lessons.

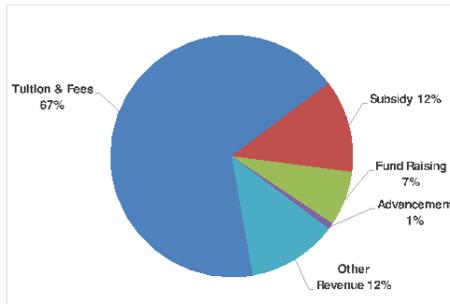
Mrs. Fortunato explained that she will provide resources in the future so parents, faculty, and staff can educate themselves on this topic.

Financial – Mr. Larry Meo presented ICS’s financial status

ICS State of the School

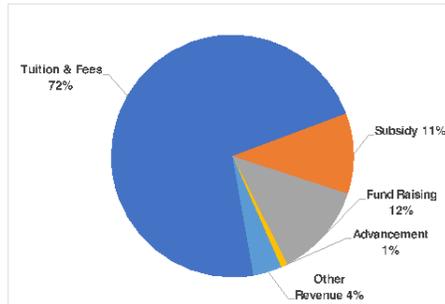
School Financial Status

2020-2021 Funding Profile



Fund Raising > \$178,000 (\$752/K-8 student)
No Parish Festival due to Covid-19

2021-2022 Funding Profile



Fund Raising > \$350,000 (\$1,255/K-8 student)
Parish Festival is approximately 30% of Fund Raising.

June 2, 2021

2020-2021 Updated

School Safety
Student and Faculty Education Programs
Technology

Future Plans – 2021-2022

Upgrade SMARTBoards
Continue to develop Innovation Lab
Investigate becoming “green”certified school
Update school strategic plan and Blue Ribbon status
Purchase new cafeteria tables
Theater program facilitated by Mrs. Meo
Continue to develop Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) program
Continue to encourage Responsive Classroom techniques

Staffing updates for new school year

Based on enrollment and additional 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teacher will be hired and an instructional support assistant will be hired for grades 1-3.

2 teachers will retire (Kdg. and 4th)

Academic Support position is increasing from 3 to 4 days.

P.E. will increase from 3 to 4 days.

Reopening Plan for September

Plan to reopen with full classes and regular student distancing

In school instruction for all students

ICS Task Force will meet late July to update Reopening plan with any new guidelines