

## SSPJ School Board Meeting Minutes 9/18/18, 7pm

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Tom delivered an inspirational prayer opening the first Board meeting of the year.

Present: Fr. Tom Haggerty, Ms. Diane Anderson, Jonathan Nicastro, Mrs. Nancy Greubel, Mrs. Tracy McAlvin, Ms. Kelly McGovern, Dr. Gus Mantia, Mrs. Jennifer Wos, Mrs. Jennine Cullen, Mr. Michael Radosta, Mr. Matthey Carey, Mrs. Chris Ewald.

**Excused:** Mrs. Tania Willman, Dr. Lisa Stephen

**President's Report:** Jonathan Nicastro

Venmo App: Discussion on the possible use of the app to pay for school related expenses such as fees and guild events occurred. Mrs. Cullen and Mr. Carey explained the virtues of the app. Follow up with Mrs. Portanova, Business Manager for the Parish needs to be done in order to further seek out the viability of using the app. Mr. Carey to follow up with her.

Student Mass Announcements: Mrs. Cullen has posed the idea of having SSPJ students give pulpit announcements regarding what is going on in the school. Announcement would include upcoming guild events. Fr. Tom to consider idea-he reminded the Board that 8<sup>th</sup> graders are lectors and he would like to explore further inclusion of the school students in various aspects of weekly mass. Matter to be addressed again at the next Board meeting.

St. James Day: I gave an update on the upcoming St. James day. The school will have a booth similar to those we had at Kings Park Day and the Family Festival. Board members were encouraged to assist in manning the booth.

School Board Course: I gave a synopsis of courses that the Dioceses has made available to school board members in the past. I encourage our members to attend the next available classes. Mrs. Ewald has not received information on any upcoming course but will check with the Dioceses Schools Main Office for information.

Rules for Members: Members were advised to contact me first with new business so as I can investigate the topics and review them with the Principal and/or Pastor prior to meetings so as we can have a more meaningful discussion.

### **Principals Report**

Mrs. Anderson reported that the new phone system is being installed. The system will allow for seamless communications between all the classrooms and the office. Teachers will be able to dial 911 from their classrooms. Key phones will be equipped with 911 panic buttons. Teachers/Staff were issued fanny packs to house emergency gear such as their radios, phone, and emergency information.

Member Gus Mantia posed the idea of having a volunteer security presence in the school. A pool of volunteers would be sought out to assist the school with security functions such as monitoring students traveling between the main school and the Mary Monte Building. The security force would be obtained from the Parish and likely be retirees. A similar model is currently in place for our Parish Religious

Education Program. A committee is being formed to explore the idea further. Committee Members: Mr. Mantia, Mrs. McAlvin, Mr. Radosta.

Mrs. Anderson will schedule a Principal's Coffee Meeting in October prior to our next Board meeting.

The school playground is going to be installed. Donations for the effort are still coming in.

**Pastors Report:** Fr. Tom Haggerty

Fr. Tom spoke to the group about the positive direction the Parish and School have been heading in. He reports that 202 students are enrolled in the school. He further reports how the Parish continues its support of the mission of the school. Sister Theresita Donach is coming to the Parish. She will be involved with ministering to the Parish and the school. She will be involved with Middle School Electives.

**Financial Report:** Dr. Gus Mantia

Dr. Mantia reported that the school's financial outlook has been moving in a positive direction. Parish financial support of school operations is approximately \$165,000. This represents about \$820 per student. He further advised that there are 25 school families in the Parish that financially support the Parish via the envelope donation system. There are 52 school families in the Parish that do not support the Parish financially. Further, there are 43 out of Parish families that do not support SSPJ Parish financially.

Discussion of this topic outlines the probability that many families believe that there out of Parish contributions come back to SSPJ. Another possibility is that parents may believe some part of their tuition is a donation to the church. An effort is going to be undertaken to educate the school families as to the need for them to financially support the Parish in a similar fashion as the Parish has to the school families.

**Guild Report:** Mrs. Jennine Cullen

The Guild has various activities planned for this year. Upcoming events include a plant sale, craft sale, kids paint night, adult paint night, trunk or treat, and the father daughter dance among other events.

**Next Meeting:** October 22, 2018. 7pm. Apostles of Hope Room.

Adjourned at 8:15pm