

**St. Joseph Catholic Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Sept. 21, 2020**  
**LRC - Upper Campus**

**Present:** Kyle Vitkus, Sister Louise Bernier, Teresa LaMacchia, Dreu Viola, Beth Bahr, Christine Genthner, Bruce Varick, Bob Freund, Mike Bain, Matthew Rizzo, Brock Portilia, Bill Koenes, John Moyer, John Hogan, Susie Harron, Eric Kenesie, Paul Marik, Paul Krumrie, Jeanne Kessler

Kyle Vitkus called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

Prayer Beth Bahr

August Board of Directors **Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda** were reviewed and approved. Reviewed and approved motion Mike Bain, Sister Louise Bernier 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Introduction of new board members – K. Vitkus**

Susie Harron, Eric Kenesie, Paul Marik, Paul Krumrie, John Moyer, John Hogan

Friendly reminder about practices regarding confidentiality of discussions that take place at board meetings.

**Presentation of Athletics Department – D. Witthun**

Discussion of Athletics at SJCA led by David Witthun. St. Joseph's received an Award of Excellence and is starting to be recognized as an institution that promotes leadership and sportsmanship. In addition to good sportsmanship recognition at SJCA, clubs like key club and J club are being recognized for leadership.

WIAA statistic - 83 to 86% of students play one sport per year.

The SJCA athletic department is working hard to get students involved in something at an earlier age. Basketball has been successful with this.

Fundraising from the SJCA Athletic Association has been busy by getting Banner sponsorship from community businesses, has grown from 10 participants to 50. That along with the Century Dinner and Golf Outing generates the majority of funds.

These funds have provided

- Improvements to the weight and cardio room. PE teachers are including it in their curriculum to build more interest in middle school students.
- New uniforms for wrestling and pom/dance uniforms.
- Hall of Fame development

- Video display boards on campus

Getting students involved in athletics can create a stronger identity with SJCA. Been hard to track specific data on why student athletes leave SJCA. Common reasons include, tuition, desire to play at a larger school, and no reason provided. Recruiting rules can present issues.

### **Audit Approval Process – K. Vitkus**

Annual basis – Full Audit, WI Parental Choice program.

K. Vitkus motion to allow Auditors to present the final audit with the Operations committee sometime between 10/5 and 10/8 to meet the deadline of 10/15/20. Mike Bain, seconds. Motion approved and passes.

### **Review of existing Board Terms Full Board**

See spreadsheet (BOD list, 7.28.20)

Discussion of Board level, conversations of who may transition off. Kyle will email out requesting Board members status and future plans.

### **Kenosha Catholic Schools Unification Project – K. Vitkus**

Conversations to combine All Saints and SJCA – due to COVID hit delaying meeting somewhat.

Bruce Varick will start the process to help look at this again. Will invite one to two members of the board to participate. Catholic Education is a gift to city of Kenosha, it needs to be sustainable and grow. Fr. Bob can support effort in other ways instead of being the lead.

The Archbishop is targeting 7/2021 for plan of a Unified Governed structure in Kenosha – It was expressed that this is difficult target date.

Fr. Lobacz is having conversations with the Pastors and Parishes in Kenosha. Racine went through similar unification process. As did Fond du Lac some 20 years ago.

Kyle Vitkus inquired about the status of the level of support SJCA will receive as he hasn't heard back from anyone. Seem to be at a stalemate, 500,000 is what they are offering, 650,000 is the needed amount. SJCA would get 50%, All Saints budgeting 235,000. Last year SJCA received about 423,000 budgeted. This would be approx. \$160,000 less SJCA would receive this year.

Bruce Varick mentioned income of parishes is down, attributed to COVID, which could be a reason for the decline.

SJCA provides approx. 55% of student population to receive the parish discount but we don't get that return from the parish.

What is the formula being used to determine this number, transparency, and follow-up from arch diocese would be appreciated?

Bruce expressed that he doesn't have more specifics but wished he did.

Financial structure seems more charitable than obligation. Parishes are not supporting education.

Sr. Louise asked Bruce Varick if there was any set parish obligation when All Saints formed?

Nothing was in writing but they agreed to do it for a short period. No formula really exists, not every parish values the contribution of Catholic education and the dollar amount is not the same for all parishes.

Decline began the past two years and this year is drastic, realistically due to COVID. But seems to be mixed messages with what is being shared with parishes

Additional discussion points.

- Mindset may change without parish discount
- Are parishes promoting Catholic education- limited ability to speak at masses to promote St. Joseph High School
- Attempts at engaged conversations with parish priests go unanswered
- Idea of being a unified group, new pastors, looking into the future
- SJCA works to build a bridge to the parish but it's not being reciprocated.
- SJCA needs to create the urgency to get them here and get them involved
- Share data about students that attend K-12 sustain their Catholic practices

### **Update on Back To School/Covid-19 – B. Freund**

Back to school plan –

6<sup>th</sup> week of school, in person instruction. Small percentage that are attending virtual. Mostly due to underlying medical reasons.

Safety protocols in place – worked closely with health dept, DPI, etc. to put together a comprehensive plan to Get students back on campus and to stay on campus. Seems to be working well.

Students have limited access to school prior to the day starting. Teachers in classroom at 7:15, see notes from Aug.

Classrooms are social distanced with 20 desks. The SJCA Board allowing for teacher overloads has been extremely helpful to reduce class size. Classes with large numbers use the LRC to, cafeteria, and Buri Nelson to maintain social distance for more students. Synchronous learning takes place with the class that has students attending virtually. Flip side, this would also allow teachers to teach remotely from home if necessary.

Other COVID related precautions

- Sanitizing stations throughout the campuses
- Students and Staff are encouraged to wash hands as much as possible
- Rooms are stocked with sanitizing products
- Dismissal times are staggered to reduce number of students in areas at the same time
- School is clear by 4pm so facilities can deep clean
- Friday early release day out at 12:30pm so facilities deep clean Friday afternoon
- Limited visitors over the weekend
- Pushed events, retreats, dances, etc. to second semester
- Will evaluate at second semester
- Individual class masses started

SJCA COVID Case as of 9.2020, one H.S. student tested positive, 24 students quarantined for 14 days, one staff member quarantined

Letters, emails went out to all parents of students potentially affected

### **President/Principal/Director Reports**

- 25 H.S. students, 13 middle school, 22 lower school are virtual. 7% of population.
- End of quar. 10/16, working hard to keep students in the classroom
- Government funding through KUSD \$60,000 same as Title 1 funding, will be used for technology to help with virtual learning, monitors and mics
- Two weeks ago, Math instructor resigned for personal issues and couldn't continue. Recruiting for Math teacher, long term sub. In place until Christmas, continue to keep posted.
- Fire drill last week, all students know where to go in an emergency

Matt Rizzo

- Continuing to have Spirit day during Homecoming week to keep spirit alive with normal activities
- Class masses middle school at the Grotto, great opportunity to connect
- Middle school participated in masses
- Standardized Tests ACT/ASPIRE will take place in October
- Back to school virtual night discuss expectations, meet teachers, get to know the classroom, Google platform

**Adjournment by Kyle Vitkus 7:39 pm**

Executive Session – postponed for 2 weeks, Monday, 10/5/20 so additional members can attend and the status of the KUSD announcement. 7pm