

School Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2018, 7pm.
Board Room

Members Present: Fr. Matt, Judy Pappas, Julie Delaney, Julie Furmanski, Chris McKissack, Lisa Woods, Jennifer Hartman

1. Opening Prayer
2. Principal's Report
 - The State of Illinois will visit during 1/31-Catholic Schools Week, primary focus will be health and safety of school, attention paid will be paid to personnel files to be sure all employees are in good health.
 - IL tax credit scholarships. Recent question about money going unused at SJS, but this is not the case. People who qualify have income a certain percentage above the poverty level. We have a few families that qualify and therefore receive partial scholarships which frees up other funds for SJS tuition assistance program. Recipients are kept confidential.
 - CYBERBULLYING program has been changed to February so people may attend the FSA meeting to be held in January.
 - SJS alumni news is welcome from ALL area high schools. Recently some alumni in the St. Viator math honor society have received scholarships.
 - A long term substitute has been found for Mrs. Granato in 3rd grade while she is away on maternity leave.
 - Tuition. Lisa shared a St. Peter video which offers a variable rate tuition option for families. Fr. Matt said that, in practice, this is what St. James does but we use different language to describe the process. Fr. Matt suggested we rebrand our tuition assistance program to be similar to the St. Peter example.
3. Marketing Update
 - K for a Day success! 33 PK-4 parents attended. Craft, carols and cocoa were enjoyed.
 - Cookies with Santa also a huge success! No cost to attend this year. Danielle Kuhn lead the program. 154 children attended. Great marketing for our school!
 - Outreach. St. Edna welcomed us on 12/9 with a table after mass during their pancake breakfast. Another opportunity in January. Paid bulletin ad at St. Joseph, they are also open to visit from St. James. Nothing from St. Thomas.
 - Student Christmas video in the works.
 - St. James open house January 27th. Yard signs coming which marketing committee members will place throughout AH and beyond.
4. FSA Update
 - Next meeting will be January 15, 2019. Format is a one hour meeting and then an hour of enrichment.

- Anticipated surplus from yearly collection and Ladies Night Out fundraiser. Currently obtaining wish lists from teachers and determining needs. One suggestion was flexible seating in the classroom. More research to be done.

5. Other topics

- K-1st, 2nd grade art. Teachers spend time in professional development with Mrs. Trausch focusing on ways teachers can incorporate art and creativity into their classrooms.
- Outdoor play. Another basketball goal.
- Parent survey results. 33% response rate. Some satisfied customers and some people needing more information about School Council and other Committees. A summary will be published in the Fodder.
- Alumni connections. Again discussed the desire for alumni news from ALL area high schools about our graduates. Non-athletic news is especially appreciated. Suggestion for an alumni “button” on the website where news would be published.

6. Closing Prayer. Blessed holidays to all.