

**September 8, 2021**

**Members Present:** Mike Kendrick, Father Ed, Chris Salituro, Becky Dufern, Cathy Avecilla, Christy Horn, Jim Kestler, Michelle Goreham, Elizabeth Berger.

**Opening Prayer - Fr. Ed**

**Approval of minutes - N/A for 9/8 meeting**

**Round Robin Introductions**

- Christy and Chris – final year on school council

**Principal/School Update - Principal Kendrick**

- Week 4 – things are going well. PIN was an overall success.
- Grandparents/Special Friends coming up.
- Nice to be able to have pep rallies and allow students to move between classrooms again. Time to transition and think about what the school can offer as we move away from staying focused on Covid.
- Upper level changes to scheduling; art moved to all grades. Upper level students will have more specials throughout the year. A move towards offering electives to the upper grades: 6-8 elective options.
- Working to Convert the upstairs computer lab to a makerspace/STEM lab.
- Trying to keep working towards our bigger vision.

**SJS Marketing Update - Melissa Finn (if available)**

- Melissa Finn is part time, may be able to send a small update before the meetings. She has met with everyone around the school and is working to broaden the reach of our social media

**FSA Update - Becky Dufern**

- 312 families have contributed to the annual fund. 67% of families.
- Special Lunch Friday and After Mass Coffee 9/15
- First FSA meeting 9/21 – looking for two teacher reps to attend meetings.
- Prayer Requests/Intentions – having a group be in charge of collecting prayer requests and creating follow up to connect
- How can we promote Encounter and encourage more people to attend?
- FSA Garden Ministry run by Vicki Fabos – We have joined forces with the parish garden group to maintain the planters and gardens all around the school/parish.
- FSA Facebook page cannot be the way new families get information
- Mask compliance has been great – still working with small groups that are upset but overall, things have been great.
- Moving forward with the Washington DC trip w the 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade will likely not get to go to White Pines – but we will work to come up with a new event for them

**Finance Update - Christy Horn**

- All is well

**Athletic Update – Christy Horn**

- Send team/game information to Melissa Finn

**Communication:**

- The website is coming! All of this information is in the new family presentation – just needs to be organized into a parent portal to allow easy access.
- Company working on the website is doing an audit of our existing website.
- Health office is working on a new snack list that is more user friendly
- Student Handbook – could be a great place to organize all the information -
- **What does an ideal month of communication look like? How much? From Whom? What content? What do St. James parents want to hear from the school? Weekly? Daily? Monthly?**

- School Communication Survey – how best to communicate?
- Emily Hill will work to put together a communication survey to send to families.
- New family presentation timing - may be better at the end of summer and not EOY. Too many new families join over the summer and others just forget.
  - Ideal time would be after July 4 – before August.
  - Could be an in-person event that also invites existing families to help – break out sessions to allow
- Spirit Wear Guidelines - Should students be allowed to wear sport shorts or other bottoms? Many boys do not have jean shorts and I don't think sport shorts are any worse than sweat pants.
  - Kendrick going to change the policy to allow gym shorts
- Drop off Line and parents exiting cars
  - Pre-K Teachers will send a note to parents to remind them of drop off policies

#### Other Items:

- Can we get early release dates added to the school calendar?
  - Done!
- PIN - ask that teachers not using rooms to present still open doors and allow parents to see their child's specific classroom
  - Will go back to the original way
- Back to School BBQ - is this an annual FSA/School Council event?
  - Yes! 😊
- Who should families contact regarding registration and tuition?
  - Secretaries
- Should we adjust half day kindergarten tuition? It's currently more expensive than full day kindergarten (with a sibling) tuition.
  - Need to look at tuition – at the next meeting – finalized before Open House in January
- What is being done/has been done for families that left this year?
  - We are contacting families on an individual basis and keeping personal situations confidential.

#### **Classroom placement**

- how are students placed in classrooms?

- Based on academic and social/emotional needs
- Need to abolish classroom requests – be transparent to parents how the process works
- Exception is the pre k kids/younger grades that are new to school and will be placed with friends or former classmates

#### **Academic differentiation**

- We are an inclusive school and that works on both ends of the spectrum. Seeing kids who need more of a challenge.
- Grading Scale – needs to be adjusted
- Student Leadership qualifications -

#### **High-school readiness**

- Study hall?? WIN period – “What I Need”
- Possibly change the school hours?? 8:15am – 3:25pm

**Action Items:**

- ✓ Communication survey – Emily Hill will work to create a survey. Chris Salituro & Chris McKissak have a past survey to help as a guide.
- ✓ Tuition Discuss at next meeting – Mike Kendrick will bring a list of our former tuition plus other schools for discussion
- ✓ Mike will follow up with his team about changing the grading scale
- ✓ Mike will get a list from Jane of the families that left this year.
  - Elizabeth Berger will send postcards to the families