

# St. Joseph School Board

## 450 Franklin Avenue, Garden City, NY

### Minutes of Meeting: June 9, 2021

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**School Board Members Present:** Mr. Colomaban, Principal, Rori Martello, Assistant Principal, Msgr. Swiader, Robert York (President), Patrick Finley (Vice President), Joseph Marchese (Secretary), Robert Fioravanti, Peter Doherty, Karla Guerra, John Dolan, Ralph Greenidge and Kathryn Rafferty, Melissa Porter (new member, replacing Joe Marchese)

**School Board Members Absent:** N/A

**PTA Representative:** Mary Beth Deierlein (President)

#### **Welcome**

Mr. York called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in person at St. Joseph's School.

#### **Opening Prayer and Minutes Recording**

Mr. Marchese led the opening prayer.

Mr. Fioravanti recorded the minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to confirm the minutes for the May 2021 meeting, and those minutes were confirmed.

#### **Principal's Report**

- **Enrollment Update:**

- Current 2021-2022 enrollment: 421. All St. Thomas and St. Christopher families have now paid their initial \$100 deposit/tuition advance.
- Current projection is 434 students
- Treasure Two program currently has over 40 children on the waiting list. Waiting lists exists for other early childhood grades as well.
  - Exploring options for opening an additional 11:30-1:30 section for Treasure Time.

- **COVID Response and EOY:**

- Masks now mandated indoors through June.
- Masks are not required when outdoors. Teachers will prioritize mask breaks and outdoor learning on warmer days.
- School Calendar has been completed (in draft). Expectation is a "return to normalcy" in September. The calendar, though completed, can still be reviewed and adjusted if needed. Msgr. Swiader will review the calendar in the coming days to confirm there are no conflicts w/ Church schedule (most notably June Graduations)

- **Misc:**

- Graduations

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade set to graduate this upcoming Saturday. We were fortunate to allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in all graduation activities.
- Nursery, PK and Kindergarten graduations next Monday-Wednesday
  - Robert F. and Karla G. volunteered to assist with graduations.
  - Families were asked to limit their attendees to 4. Exceptions will be considered for those that request additional guests. Guests will be asked to wear masks and complete a health survey prior to entering building. Guests will enter the school via entrance under the breezeway, and be asked to leave through the exit in the auditorium leading out to the lawn.
  - Each class will be allotted 30 mins for the graduation ceremony. Ceremonies will be held every hour on the hour.
- Final week: 6/17 and 6/18 will be half days. 6/18 will be last day.
- School Enhancements/Updates:
  - Cameras installed. Server expected to be delivered and installed shortly. A 60in TV to be donated to use as monitor for camera feeds
  - Verizon will begin work on updating internet services on 7/1. Generally the internet is strong, but there are certain spots in the building that could be improved.
  - There is a potential for a tech grant from Diocese that may allow for new access point installation in locations throughout the school.

#### **President's Report**

- 2021-2022 Budget Proposal
  - John Dolan presented the Budget Committee's proposal
    - Education Department recommended a 2.5% increase to keep pace w/ salaries, benefits and other increases.
    - Due to fundraising, there is a surplus already in place to support potential capital expenditures that are not budgeted. Additionally, higher enrollment offsets the need increasing tuition to a certain extent.
    - The Budget Committee recommends 2.5% increase in Early Childhood tuition and a 1.5% increase for K-8. This helps us stay aligned w/ our Peers in both categories.
  - No objections noted for Budget proposal; budget will be submitted to Msgr. Swaider for review.
- Athletics/RISE
  - Catholic Middle School Athletic Association has new leadership
    - Committee is proposing baseball in the spring for the boys. Perhaps arrange for a clinic leading up to the season to generate interest.
    - Other ideas include Track and Field
- New Committee for 2021-2022 School Year
  - Diversity Committee led by Ralph Greenridge, Karla Guerra and Patrick Finley to begin in the next school year.
- Executive Board for 2021-222 School year:
  - Mr. York volunteered to remain as School Board President, Mr. Finley volunteered to remain as School Board Vice President. Both appointments supported unanimously by Board and Msgr. Swiader (officially seconded by Kathryn Rafferty and John Dolan respectively).

- Mr. Marchese's tenure as Board Member and Secretary concluded. Rob Fioravanti volunteered for the position of Secretary, and motion was approved by Board Members (Pete Doherty officially seconded the motion)
- Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Day of Celebration – Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Thank you, Joe Marchese! Joe served as a Board Member for 6 years.
- Welcome, Mrs. Melissa Porter: Melissa has 2 children at SJS and was appointed to the School Board by Msgr. Swiader.

### **Family Association Report**

- Spring Soiree (5/22): major success financially (\$100k+ in profit) and great feedback from school families.
- Mother/Son Event: was moved indoors due to potential weather. 150 Guests in attendance. Feedback has been very positive ("Classiest" mother/son event to date). Pellegrini BBQ was well received. No extra charge for Photo's well received.
- Class Picnics: almost complete (Thursday 6/10: 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Some rescheduling was required due to weather, but all set to be completed.
- End of Year Gift: Students received at class picnic.
  - K: Superkids T-Shirt
  - 1-4: Summer Fun tote w/ various toys
  - 5-8: sling backpack
- Golf Outing – next Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Approaching 80 golfer threshold, expecting about 90 based on communication
  - Last meeting held on 6/9. Finalizing several details, but all expected to be completed in time.
  - Final push for golfers, tennis players and dinner attendees. Sponsorships as well.
- New Family Welcome
  - 2 Welcome Ambassador Families per grade
  - 1 School Board member contact
  - "Welcome Wagon" table at 6/21 prayer service
  - Welcome Event in July: TBD

**Pastor's Comments and Closing Prayer:** Monsignor Swiader discussed the search for Mr. Colombar's replacement is on-going. Several interested candidates w/ strong resumes have been interviewed. The search is encouraging thus far. Msgr. Swiader welcomed Melissa Porter and thanked the Administration, Board Members and the Family Association for their efforts during the last year. Looking forward to a good summer and starting the school year in September.