

First School Board Meeting of the 2020-2021 School Year
September 1, 2020

Participants: Father Gregg, Beth Wennerstrom, Mary Alice Benoit, Allison Kanyuh, Fred Pfeiffer , Deanna Scheider , Ted Searcy and Cari Miller

Father Gregg's Report:

Thank you to Cari Miller for joining the School Board, we are happy to have you. Also, welcome Mrs. Beth Wennerstrom, the new principal, to our first school board meeting of this school year.

It has been a strange year to say the least, due to Covid. We do however, think that if we follow all of Mrs. Wennerstrom's instructions put in place with a guide from the Archdiocese of Chicago, we should be ok. She has done a remarkable job getting everything ready for the school year. We are most concerned with the children's health and we are taking every precaution with them as we know the importance of their socialization.

We are extremely excited about the new HVAC system. The air-conditioning couldn't have come at a better time with the hot weather in August and September. It is a huge change and we're glad that the first big project has been completed. Kudos to Mary Alice for following through in having this project completed. There were a few requested postponements from the HVAC contractor, however, Mary Alice worked with them to complete it for the first day of school.

This year has been financially challenging due to Covid. We've received 20% less donations from the parishioners due to Mass being cancelled and now restricted to less people.

Mary Alice Benoit's Report:

We are happy that by changing some engineering, the HVAC total expense came slightly under budget at just under \$800k, even with the newly installed classroom bookcases. The HVAC system couldn't have come at a better time. A huge positive about the system we selected is that the air ducts are not shared. Each classroom has its own unit with its own air ducts. There is no forced air shared between classrooms, even in the Annex, Kyle Hall and Pre-school. This is an extremely important feature due to Covid and the need for clean air circulation.

There are a few issues with the system that are being tweaked. First Grade's air conditioning has had a few issues that will be fixed. This HVAC System is radiant, which means it heats and cools with water. This will also be more cost effective and efficient to run.

Due to Covid parish donations are 20% less than last year, as well as some of our fundraising that we could not run during COVID (Tiger Trot, etc.). St. Johns has applied for

a PPP Loan and we were granted it. Two thirds of parishes were able to get this loan. It is used for payroll and utilities. It should be forgiven. This will help us meet our financial obligations.

We will have to come up with alternative fundraising ideas to help close the gap on our financial shortfall. Our 2 largest annual school fundraisers are Calendar Sweepstakes and Trivia Night.

We received \$116,814.25 from Empower IL, and we were able to help 25 students who applied for help with their tuition.

Beth Wennerstrom's Report:

Our enrollment is strong. Preschool is low, however, every preschool is low now due to Covid and the reality that it may turn to online ELearning if necessary.

ELearning started Monday for the students who chose that option. There were a few glitches, however, we are diligently working through them.

The in-house students are adjusting well to the changes and we are all following the protocol set forth by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Lunches are going really well. The students are spaced out, each student at their own table. They are able to take off their masks. We've also taken advantage of going outside with the nice weather and taking some mask breaks. We have set up tents out in the front of the school so we can use them for outdoor classes with mask breaks. This has been a welcome break for the students and teachers.

I am happy to announce that as of today we have 0 cases of Covid to report.

We did have one staff member that was in contact with someone who tested positive for Covid, however, they never came in contact with and students at the school and they are staying home for the recommended amount of time. So far, they are ok and are showing no symptoms.

If there are any Covid issues that arise I was given a Nurse Hotline # by the Diocese. This has been extremely helpful.

We were able to secure 33 new computers through the CARES Act. We are wanting to supply computers for grades 3rd through 8th. We are also trying to get 10 more iPads so there will be a total of 20 for Kindergarten through Second Grade. K-2nd are using the iPads for iReady. 3rd-8th are using iReady on their own computers. We are working through the cost of virtual curriculum --- Spelling City, See Saw etc. These all have a cost associated with them, however we are trying to economize where we can.

The St. Johns website will be updated by next Friday latest Monday.

This will enable the posting of updated information like the Virtual Backpack to be a lot easier.

A Special Recognition to the Maintenance Crew:

Each Individual's reports above included a huge complement to our maintenance crew. They have really been tasked with a lot more including maintenance of the grounds, and a lot deeper cleaning even in some areas several times a day. They have really stepped up. They are doing a great job and we are impressed with how clean everything is. A HUGE THANK YOU to them!

Events:

No discussion on these as of yet.