

**Saratoga Central Catholic School
Board of Trustees**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Central Catholic School Board was called to order at 5:05 pm. Father James Ebert led the opening prayer.

Present

Dan Kumlander- Chair, Trish Dugan - Secretary, Chris Signor - School Principal, Lisa Moser, Jeff Pompa, Rose Place, Fr. James Ebert

Absent: Nikki Hartmann - Vice Chair

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the November 28th 2023 meeting by Dan Kumlander and was seconded by Jeff Pompa. The motion was approved and carried.

State of the School Report: (Chris Signor, Principal)

- Jay Kelly is transferring from History Teacher to fulltime position in security with Chris Clark.
- There have been some rain leaks with the roof over the gym. The Diocese agreed to pay the down payment to Rowland Architects on behalf of the school to begin the design and RFP process for the new roof.
- The Gala will be held March. There will be a Capital Campaign component announced at the Gala for the roof along with other planned events to contribute to this project.
- New board member applications are still being submitted. Alumni and community are the goal for applicants.
- Enrollment remains strong at 200 students.

Committee Reports:

a. Advancement and Development (Lisa Moser)

- Heather Bott has been working on the Gala which is to be held on Friday, March 15th, 2024
- The golf outing will be held in May and the committee is finalizing the venue.
- Capital campaign details will be addressed in the New Year.

b. Enrollment and Retention (Nikki Hartmann)

- Nikki Hartmann submitted a report on feeder school data via email on December 5th 2023. The data reported on all new students.

c. Mission Enhancement (Trish Dugan)

- The 8th grade retreat was a huge success. The theme was Respect and Forgiveness. Students made Christmas cards, and created care packages for Shelters of Saratoga. There are two and four more retreats scheduled at SCC and St. Mary's, respectively, beginning in February 2024. Service club projects in December 2023 included Breakfast with Santa at the City Center, students working at the Christmas party at the Knights of Columbus and Wreaths Across America. Religion Classes / Theology classes 8th graders created a Jesse tree which outlined the ancestry of Jesus and the 6th and 7th graders completed their condensed Advent calendars. The first week of January all students will learn about the Epiphany and why it is celebrated.

- Discussed the formation of the committee for Mission Enhancement and the addition of two members, a current parent of SCC and the 5th Grade teacher from St. Mary's. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8th, 2024 with Pat Douglass, Campus Minister, John Pikus, Theology Teacher and Joe McGee Religion Teacher to identify strategies on how this committee can assist with their endeavors.

d. Finance (Dan Kumlender)

- The Financial Statement from the Diocese was discussed. Deficit down to \$67K compared to last year \$125K, trending to be in the black by the end of the fiscal year.
- Tuition is up YTD 15.4% compared to the same period last year.
- Salaries + Benefits are down 13.6% compared to the same period last year.

f. Nominations (Lisa Moser, Jeff Pompa, Rose Place)

- Community members are the focus for new applicants for the BOT. We will be adding two more Trustees. A parent applicant could finish out the remaining term of the parent board member that stepped down. A community member can fill the position of the board member that resigned.

g. Facilities (Jeff Pompa)

- Roof repair needed and that process has begun.
- Bathroom repairs were needed for toilet seats.
- Cleaning services were discussed.

Additional Agenda Items

1. Old Business

- PTSO Advisors are in place and rolls and involvement is being worked out with educators.

2. New Business

- Coach Alphonse Lambert presented a football merger opportunity that he had been contacted about between Stillwater High School and SCC. Stillwater is a Class D school as opposed to other Class A or B schools, so it would be a good fit for SCC. Merger would benefit enrollment for both schools. SCC survey last spring suggested that multiple students would be inclined to have enrolled at SCC if there was a football team. A sign up was submitted today, to see which students expressed an interest in playing football and 20 students signed up from SCC. The location is an easy drive for practice to Stillwater. SCC will transport and our Coaches will be involved. A meeting is planned for Jan 2nd 2024 with the Stillwater Athletic Director. This will be a 1 year merger beginning Feb 1st 2024. Coach Lambert stated that this is an unprecedented opportunity. The insurance aspect will be addressed by Dr. Bott at the Albany Diocese. A letter will come from the SCC BOT stating we approve the merger.
- Increasing enrollment, building staff, building programs and finances are the main focus for the school right now.

Closing Prayer – (Chris Signor)

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm. Principal Signor led the closing prayer.