

**8/27/2019- School Advisory Committee Meeting  
Open Regular Meeting**

**Members Present:** Emily Lenn, Jeff Thomson, Jeannine Schwehofer, Nicole Boutorwick, Dennis Dobrasko, Darek Nytko, Jennifer Yaek, Trish Zyble, Joe Bongiovanni

**Non-Members Present:** Rachael Kuffa, Mrs. Ellen Kauffman

**Members Absent:** Fr. Joe Mallia

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:03 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Mrs. Emily Lenn

**Mission Statement:** St. Augustine Catholic School spreads the good **N.E.W.S.** by Navigating a Christian course, Educating body, mind and spirit, Worshipping the Lord, and Serving others.

**Agenda for School Advisory Committee – 8/27/2019**

- Opening Prayer
- Mission Statement
- Review and Approval of 5/28/19 Minutes
- Pastor's Report- Fr. Joe Mallia - unavailable
- Administrator's Report- Mrs. Emily Lenn
- Old Business- LEGO Robotics
- New Business- Vote for Officers, New Member Announcement, Drop-off Procedure, Classical Education Seminar.
- Roundtable Discussion- All
- Closing Prayer/Adjourn- Mr. Jeff Thomson

**Approval of 5/28/19 Minutes:** Joe B. motioned to approve, Jeff T. seconded motion, all in favor to approve. Minutes will be published by Mrs. Lenn on school's website.

**Pastor's Report:** Fr. Joe Mallia absent

**Administrators Report:**

- Technology update: Teachers received new laptops in August, and they are working well. SMART board licenses were purchased and the software has been downloaded. We had all day SMART board training August 16 for staff. The training was very informative and hands on. A great deal of work has been done to our website. Teachers have also created new classroom websites.
- Enrollment: Currently have 154 students registered including pre-school. Last year we had 156. We have had a few new families from St. Mary St. Clair, and one from St. Mary Mt. Clemens. PS- 33 (one spot open in 3's, 4's are full). K-8- 121.
- Playground: Wooden fence was leaning, so it was removed. Two trees were also removed in that area. New fencing was installed after the festival. The students have a larger play space. Nicole B. asked if there is potential for getting the swing set from Austin's playground moved to the open space for the kids. Emily to talk to father and the Game Time rep and look into this option. Suggested cost may be raised at the upcoming dinner.
- Drop off procedure: Students are dropped off near flag pole and enter the parish hall doors. Two teachers supervise in the hall, and we begin Morning Prayer as we are gathered there.

- Office window: Hole was cut after the festival, trimmed, and wood was stained. The measurements have been taken for the window, and installation is expected yet this week or next week.
- Computer lab: Air conditioner was replaced. The old unit stopped working.
- Staff changes/ openings: Latchkey- Jonathan Petrous (art teacher) will be the pm latchkey caregiver. Still need latchkey caregiver for am, as latchkey begins on Monday. Searching for a new gym teacher- Berkley has posted the position. Full time split between St. A's and another school.
- Athletics: We have a new athletic director for the Blue Water Vicariate- Mark Kehoe. Volleyball and Cross Country will be starting very soon.
- AOD Assessment update: The diocese has chosen to go with STAR Renaissance as the new computer adaptive assessment for students to replace IOWA, starting in the 2020-21 school year. Schools could request to become early adopters this year, and we did request to adopt early. We were not chosen, however. Thirteen schools were chosen, none from the Blue Water Vicariate. Jeff T. asked if this assessment is comparable to the testing at public schools. Emily said she was unsure. There is new staff at the AOD education department that she is looking forward to talking to about this testing.
- Upcoming School Events: Picture day- Sept 16 & 17, Science Olympiad Informational meeting- Sept 17, 6:00 in library; No school- Sept 27 Archdiocese Professional development day; High School Night- Sept 30, 6-7:30 in parish hall; 8th grade visits Mooney Oct 1; Flu shots available on Oct 3, 2:30-6 in parish hall; IOWA & Religion testing window- October 7-18; SAC meeting Dec 17- one of the tentative dates for Advent Program; may need to be rescheduled once the program date is finalized.

- **LEGO Robotics- Planning on 8 kits for each level. Parent volunteer sign up available on sign up genius on school website. Will assess student interest at back to school night. Darek N. asked how often/when groups will meet. Emily L. stated we would wait to see level of involvement and stated that she didn't want this program to interfere with other school programs (Science Olympiad, etc). She talked to Lego Edu and they said there are 2 different routes we could take for 5-k: coding or simple machines. Jeannine S. suggests possibly having older students teach/help with younger students for service credits. Emily L. stated middle school kits have bundle packs that are cost effective option. Next step is to get the final quote from Lego. PTC is offering up to \$3,000 plus up to \$480 in Title IV money- plenty enough to get started.**

**New Business:**

- Classical Education Seminar- Mrs. Lenn went to seminar on 8/12<sup>th</sup> hosted by the AOD about catholic liberal arts education and how to have a classical arts school. This way of educating is classical based/inquiry based. The seminar best explained the concept of the program in relation to a tree: The roots of the tree are the base/foundation and relate to younger children in the phase of memorizing facts; the trunk of the tree for a bit older kids who are in the dialectic/inquiry phase; the branches of the tree for the upper el children who are in the rhetoric phase. There are 7 liberal arts broken down into 2 parts: Language (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and Number (arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy). St. John Paul II is starting this program. Will see the outcome in the year to come. Trish Z asked Emily about the benefits of the program. She was a bit unsure.
- New Member Announcement- There will be a sign up genius for parents who express interest in joining the SAC as a member. The term will be for 1 year, with the optional 3 year term following the 1 year. Mrs. Lenn to also publish this in the weekly for people to sign up by Sunday if interested in

being placed on a voting ballot. She also stated that she could create a Google doc for the vote. 1st place would be granted the position, 2<sup>nd</sup> place would be given an alternate member position in the event that we lose a member mid-term.

- Drop off Procedure- Mrs. Lenn wanted feedback on new procedure. Overall positive change. Like having kids gather in a larger space/indoors prior to school for prayer. Jeannine S. suggested that for safety reasons, parents wanting to walk their child in should park in far parking lot (by basketball court) and walk over to the sidewalk next to the school, thus avoiding crossing the parking lot where there is traffic moving and parked cars where it is difficult to see a child walking. Mrs. Lenn said she would discuss it with the greeters for their feedback and will consider the change. Jeannine also suggested having a day (maybe prior to school starting up) where kids can bring in their school supplies (tissue, paper towel, etc.) so that day 1 of school isn't so chaotic. Mrs. Lenn to consider this as well.
- Vote for Officers- Joe Bongiovanni voted President, Jennifer Yaek voted Vice President, Nicole Boutorwick Secretary. All votes for these Officer positions were unanimously approved, none opposed.

#### **Round Table Discussion:**

- School Mass will be at 8am instead of 8:10 since we are beginning school earlier.
- Darek N. brought up the handbook policy of nail polish. Said he has received negative feedback regarding that. Jeannine S. stated the same about hair hi-lights. The overall consensus with that was that there needed to be a rule that wasn't "grey" and spelled out what would be the least distracting and most conducive to keep things uniform in school. No change to rule made.
- Nicole B. suggested that there be 2 picture days: one with children in uniform, which would be published in the yearbook and the other that could be in casual dress with student chosen backgrounds, etc. Allow families to order from one, both or neither if they wish. But, ultimately, publishing the uniform picture in the yearbook so that we truly stand apart from public schools. Mrs. Lenn to consider this option as well.
- **Closing Prayer:** Jeff Thomson

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:23pm

**Next Meeting:** September 24, 2019, 7 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Nicole Boutorwick, Secretary