

Saint Damian School Board Minutes **Tuesday, May 16th, 2017**

Start Time: 7:00 P.M. End Time 8:45 P.M.

Present: Dr. Stockhausen, Fr. Joe Noonan, Josh Deabel, Sandy Hoffman, John Perales, Rob Lee, Kathleen Boss, Kelly Farrell

Not Present - Christina Lim and Jill Stokes

Visitors: Mrs. Laura Sullivan and Mrs. Megan Wagner

- Opening prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll call
- Agenda was approved

Parents Address the Board

- Mrs. Sullivan introduce herself and read a prepared statement. Her statement covered several areas:
 - Effectiveness of the Junior High's Math and Science curriculum
 - Delayed communication related to a recent lock down incident
 - Clarity surrounding the purchase of iPads, their use and requirements for families
 - High turnover at the principal level
- Mrs. Wagner discussed her concerns with iPads purchase, the impact on students who don't purchase and iPad. Would children be at a disadvantage without a personally owned device?
- The board thanked both parents for their valuable feedback and concerns. Dr. Stockhausen spoke to the comments and her statements are covered in the Principal's Report section below

Principal's Report (Dr. Stockhausen):

- Dr. Stockhausen addressed the topics and questions discussed with the parents in her comments below:
 - The lockdown situation lasted less than 10 minutes. The Police alerted the school of a criminal suspect in the area, while the staff were preparing the phone/email blasts to the families, the Police called back to say the situation in the area had been handled. There was no delay in normal dismissal time. Dr. Stockhausen fully intended to send out revised communication but did not remember to do so until the next morning. She apologized and planned to put things in place to avoid this in the future.
 - Junior High Curriculum Math and Science
 - Both Math and Science curriculums are being enhanced in several ways
 - New books and methods
 - Targeted training and professional development
 - St. Damian teaching staff are also going to be attending district 142 development days
 - Transition from STEAM to STREAM “Science Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math”
 - There will be a dedicated certified teacher to handle STREAM programming and special needs.
 - iPads. Dr. Stockhausen stated that the original letter sent out could have been clearer. A new letter is being drafted that will be sent out addressing the concerns mentioned today.
 - Purchase of iPads is not mandatory for the 2017-2018 school year
 - The school purchased iPad carts that will be used in different sections of the school. For example, there’s a cart in junior high to be shared by all the classes in that building
 - All students will have access to an iPad when iPads are used in their class for specific exercises or activities.

Principal's Report (Dr. Stockhausen) continued:

- The school made an offer for parents to purchase an iPad as part of the school's purchase order as an optional choice. By doing so parents can save on the taxes and a small bulk price reduction. This is where there was the most confusion as many people believed this was a mandatory purchase
- Dr. Stockhausen reported that an alumnus has reached out, via the Alumni Group, to the school to offer a gift to one 8th grade student. The gift is going to be a computer.
- She and Father Joe also reported that we are getting great response for the Alumni group.

Finance Report: (Rob Lee)

- We continue to be under budget. This surplus is allowing the school to make the initial rounds of iPads

Pastor's Report: Fr. Joe

- Father Joe asked that we think about what spiritual opportunities might interest people for presentations and discussions as it relates to faith formation.
- He also talked about a mission going on in Robbins by the group "Pro Labore Dei" (<http://www.prolaboredei.org/>). This group is doing its best to help with the basics like essential food and clothing – coats in the winter. Father wondered if there might be a way we can as a school community integrate this and provide some support. Perhaps a Christmas Toy Drive? We will keep this as a topic of discussion for the future.
- The parish raffle is going strong! This year's money will be going directly towards the school. Keep getting the word out.

Fundraising Report:

- Nothing to report for this meeting

Legislative: (Josh Deabel)

- Josh asked that we consider adding “Curriculum” to the ongoing meeting topics. The board agreed.
- He also mentioned the possibility of using PBS as a supplement to classes if possible. One example was a program Pope John II he recently watched.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Next regular board meeting June 19th at 6PM. Spouses invited to join after 6:45PM

Potential Topics for next meeting:

Closing Prayer: All members