

St. Therese Catholic School Board Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Martha at 5:33pm
Deacon Dan led the opening prayer

Present: Martha, Josh, Dennis, Trish, Deacon Dan, Patty, Fr. Carl, Laura

Absent: Fr. Michael, Terrie

Approval of agenda: Patty motions to approve agenda, Josh seconds

Approval of minutes: Martha asks Board to review June minutes

- Laura asks for her name to be corrected
- Laura motions to approve, Josh seconds

Principal's Report:

Middle School Improvements:

- Principal Vigil presents middle school schedule
- We are attempting to remove "study hall"
- We now scheduled "exploratory" period in which different options will be offered to students. We will begin the year with a foreign language offering in Spanish which is an online opportunity of learning. Per the direction of expanding programs, Dennis speaks of classical learning. More hands on. Perhaps having older students serve as tutors for young students.
- Josh B. speaks that exploratory period would be opportunity where we work with the Zoo or other outside entities.
- Josh would like to see concrete choices for day one.
- Martha recommends that we check with teachers for additional outside possibilities that could be offered during the exploratory period.
- Josh invites parents present to speak to needs of the middle school offering.
 - Parents present state: that they would like to see more PE classes, question of what will happen when the yearbook offering goes away, need to know what is going on in each classroom, math curriculum should be expanded (stating that only 40 lessons were provided and should be more like 150 lessons), parents that met this summer feel that the middle school years should have more rigor, and are requesting more open communication from teachers to parents. Parents want to know if any class/curriculum falls more than 3 lessons behind for any reason.
- Dennis states that a syllabi per class will be available so parents can have access to them to view course direction.

2023-2024 School Calendar

- Dennis presented the 2023-2024 school calendar

- It was requested that additions and changes should be added with Giving Day on October 6th, Christmas break needs updated, no school on September 5 for a staff retreat. Dennis stated he would take a look at the concerned areas prior to asking Board approval of the calendar.
- Clarification was added about professional development through the year.

Overdue payments : Only 4 that are 90 days and over due. These four are not large amounts.

Bingo update: Wednesdays are up and running. We have also taken August 14 and 21 as additional days for St. Therese Catholic School Bingo. These additional days will be advertised in the Pueblo Chieftain. Average weekly intake is about \$4000.

Staffing update: New hirers: Religious Education and Math Teacher. We are still in need of a 1st and 3rd grade teacher. If we do not have these teachers then we will combine classes. This will require some classroom changes. There will be additional compensation for the teachers teaching 2 grades.

Enrollment- as of today- 92 students. Low numbers- 6th grade is 3, 8th grade is 4. Kindergarten is 6. We always lose students after 5th grade. Dennis says that we need to offer better quality middle school so to attract and keep students.

Josh suggests that we communicate the plan for the combine classes. Dennis plans to communicate this to the parents in an email tomorrow. We have had people express interest in these positions but they don't have the experience/certification to fill this spot.

Scholarship committee plan: This has been held up because Dennis has not been able to get a hold of Fr. Michael.

Employee Retention Credit – This funding was granted as a post COVID measure. We have received most of the checks for this money and it has been placed in the Endowment Fund to replace money that was used to meet operating expenses. We now have to pay the fee of application. Dennis requests the fee needs to be paid to the bank that helped us. The decision was made over the summer months to pay the fee for all payments received thus far, with the final payment being made when we receive the final check.

TADS- this cost us 6,000 plus annually. Laura asks why we use TADS- stating she is not sure that it is worth using. Dennis mentions that TADS was here when he arrived. He further suggests that we keep the grade book aspect and attendance of TADS. Laura

suggests that PowerSchool or Infinite Campus be looked at as it is what the district uses. She further stated that TADS did not work for the Grade display last year. Martha stated that there are financial considerations regardless of which management program is used that we would have to delve into. Fr. Carl suggests that we create a sub-committee to find a real solution. Maybe after October "giving day."

Budget for 2023-2024- Dennis states that there are ways in which we can continue to cut the budget and will need to do so.

Giving day : Martha stated that the plans for Giving Day are moving forward. The committee has been working on putting a plan in motion for the Week of October 1 through our Giving Day of October 6. Laura stated that she got information to the diocese which was included in the "Living Garden" , Diocesan email newsletter. Board discusses having students from our school hand out flyers at parishes for giving day. Dennis plans to have class competition.

Diocese Report (Deacon Dan)- Fr. Michael is working on getting Dominican Nuns to come in as teachers to fill the teacher shortage needs. This will not take place this year. Dcn. Dan is working with ACE which is a program from Norte Dame that sends four teachers to serve at our school/community.

Suggestion from Dcn Dan would be to hook them up through BOCES so they can work with a mentor. The alternative licensing program. We would also have a mentor teacher from our school to help this/these individuals.

Discussion Items:

ACE report- Janelle Bruggeman reports that the Bronco board is live. Spots are available.

Dennis asks about clarifying that ACE and the Shrine parish efforts work together. A sense of frustration is expressed by ACE that the Parish is working against the school's efforts to the point that she needs to have someone else take on the responsibilities of ACE. Discussion continues with mentioning that communication between the school and the Shrine of St. Therese is poor and frustrating. Martha will contact Father Mike and see about sharing the concerns of communication.

Closing Prayer: Father Carl

Meeting ended at 7:45pm

Next meeting will be Tuesday Sept 12 at 5:30pm

Submitted by Father Carl Wertin