

St. Monica Academy School Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 28th, 2017 - 7:00pm
St. Monica Academy - Byenka Hall
Minutes prepared by: Mark N. Goedert

Attendance: Ray Coleman, Carmela Stout, Carin Smith, Monica Guarisco, Johnny Barajas, John Suwalski, Mark Goedert, John Baruch

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02pm
2. Minutes approved from the October School Board meeting
3. Principal's Report
 - a. Holiday activities are at hand. We have a lot of Church going in the next few weeks with an all school mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Christmas pageant preparations in underway. Parent conferences went well. Final preparations for the Science Fair and also underway; school board members are invited to the science fair. A new STEM program may be setup for January to March time frame. The Mary Poppins play date had to change a date to Feb. 6th (a week later). Dec 5th will be a dine-out day for Potbelly's
 - b. Catholic Schools Week planning is underway for the Open House in January. The whole week will have activities celebrating Catholic Schools
 - c. Tuition rates are getting developed and need to be completed by Dec. 1st this year due to the Illinois scholarship program
4. The St. Monica Academy School Board approved the changes to the updated Constitution and By-Laws unanimously
5. Committee Updates
 - a. A coordinator is needed for the "Movie Night" if anyone knows of a interested parent please reach out and we are open to new ideas for the program
 - b. Hospitality is doing a great job
 - c. No new updates from Environmental and Legislation. Johnny B. suggested the school and parish get an energy assessment to look for opportunities to save energy. Mr. Coleman noted that a walk through was performed in the last two weeks; the effort started in August with the gas company
 - d. Volunteers needed in leadership roles; we also need new ideas and interest
 - e. Alumni no update
6. Visitor's Comments

- a. No visitors attended the board meeting.
7. Tuition rates were reviewed for next year.
 - a. St. Monica Academy is competitive with schools in the Deanery cohort
 - b. We do not have mandatory service hours or extra fees for technology in addition to the tuition
 - c. The 2018 tuition rates presented at the board meeting were approved by the board for the 2018-2019 school year.
 - d. The new tuition rates will be communicated to the school community by the principal in the near future
 8. Please encourage attendance at the Denim and Diamonds Gala
 9. Tuition arrears
 - a. Last year the school was short by over \$60,000.00 at the end of the school year. We would like to avoid this so we can continue to make payroll and other expenses. We successfully recovered most of the \$60,000.00 before school registration for the following academic year
 - b. The board is in agreement that policy is needed, with an exclusion provision, to ensure the school can collect tuition and to provide the flexibility needed to be compassionate with the individual situations of our families
 10. Marketing
 - a. John Suwalski presented strategies for fundraising that he found through his research
 - i. Show the value of the education, note individual fundraising targets.
 - ii. When Prek4 is solicited what can we do to entice the Prek4 students to continue with Saint Monica Academy
 - iii. John noted a video on "why St. Monica Academy" from current families.
 11. Parking Lot - Important ideas worth noting
 - a. Volunteerism
 - i. John Baruch mentioned that as a board we need to look at volunteering across the school and garner interest and enthusiasm to volunteer. It is part of the mission of the church to serve. We should revisit this at a future board meeting.
 - ii. Monica noted that there could be parents on the sideline that would like to volunteer but were not asked.
 12. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm
 13. Next meeting is January 23rd 2017, at 7:00pm

Future meeting dates: Feb. 20th 2018, Mar. 20th 2018, Apr. 24 2018, and May 15th. 2018