

St. Patrick's Elementary Elementary School Foundation, Inc.

2/28/2024

7:00 PM via Zoom Video Conference

Attendance:

President	Patrica Powers	Present via Zoom
Board Member	John Jones	Present via Zoom
Board Member	Melissa Gwilt	Present via Zoom
Board Member	Jennifer Cossette	Present via Zoom
Board Member	Margaret (Meg) Tesmer	Present via Zoom
PTC/Parent Representative	Rachel Pace	Absent
Teacher Representative	Katelyn Boone	Present via Zoom
School Principal	Kristin Healt	Present via Zoom
Consultant	Rebecca vanLieshout	Present via Zoom
Superintendent of Catholic Schools	Amy Sansone Ed.D	Present via Zoom

Opening of the Meeting: At 7:00 EST Patrick Powers opened the meeting.

Introduction of the Participants: Each participant was acknowledged.

Acknowledgement of Principal: Kristin Healt

Confirmation of Quorum: YES - 5 - number of voting members were present.

Agenda Approval: Approved/Not Approved. (Motion made to approve agenda by John Jones, Seconded by Jennifer Cossette, vote taken, motion carried).

Approval of Minutes from 12/13/2023 Meeting: Discussion of the key action items from the previous Board meetings. Approved/Not Approved. (Motioned to approve both the 12/13/2023 minutes by John Jones, Seconded by Meg Tesmer, vote taken, motion carried).

The February 28, 2024 Board Meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference.

Public comments:

No public comments at this time.

Financial Report:

Pat Powers has received the December financials and can distribute them to anyone interested for review. He is waiting for the February numbers to get a better picture of the present situation as there were a lot of start-up over the summer that will be spread over the year. Several fundraisers are coming up including Basket Bonanza and the lottery, which is currently underway. We need to focus on fundraising throughout the rest of the school year. The last item he commented on was tuition receivable line. He added that letters were sent out to those families behind on payments and is hopeful monies will be received in the next month to help cash flow.

Discussion then turned to Alice Nolan impending retirement and the need to find a new bookkeeper. John Jones mentioned that we should look for someone to do the work pro bono. Pat Powers commented that Alice had offered to help with training of anyone we bring aboard. Some accounting firms in Syracuse may offer pro bono services but an ask would have to be made after tax season. Mr. Powers suggested a parent could help in exchange for tuition. He did not have an exact estimate on the number of hours but guessed it would be a few hours a day. Superintendent Sansone suggested that Mrs. Healt email the comptroller for the hours Alice works and ask Alice for a desk audit of programs used.

This concludes the Financial Report.

Old Business

Update on ERC

Pat Powers provided an update on the ERC credit. He advised that there is pending legislation in Congress that proposed a cutoff for ERC Credit applications to be January 31, 2023. The Diocese, through ADP, submitted reports through 2020 and maybe 2021. The ERC application was for \$81,741 for 2020. The estimated time for funds to be received is 6-8 weeks although Mr. Powers thinks that is may actually be closer to 6-8 months.

Assessment

Pat Powers reminded the Board that we are still awaiting the amount of the assessment for the school in the pending litigation. The amount has not yet been received. The Pastors will learn what the church's assessment is and he anticipates the school amounts will be released shortly thereafter. Superintendent Sansone confirmed that if the Pastors can meet (weather dependent) that the schools will receive their assessment amount in one to two weeks. She added that they are sensitive to the schools' situations and have a plan so that the assessment will not affect this year's budget.

New Business

Pat Powers reported on a pending estate that will be donating to the school, likely through the Guardians, to be used for scholarships for families in difficult circumstances. Pat is hopeful that the distribution will be received soon. Jen Cossette added that distributions to charities need approval from the Attorney General's Office, which may be causing the delay.

Mr. Powers also reported that a preliminary budget meeting was held on 2024-25 budget. The next step is to meet with Diocese (March 18th). The budget does include an increase in tuition and that parents have been advised of the increase. Our tuition is the lowest in the Diocese.

Lastly, he reported that the last landscaping donations for the Rosary Garden were received. Donations can still be made, but the target budget for the project has been met.

John Jones then commented on the upcoming changes to elementary schools in the Oneida City School District. With the closing of one school and consolidation of classes, some parents may not find the new situation ideal so we might be able to market the benefits of our school to those parents.

There was no other new business.

Principal's Report:

Faith – The school has five catechumens who will be joining the Catholic Church on April 9th. The students, two from grade 3, one from grade 5 and two from grade 6, are not from Catholic families and chose to do this on their own.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated recently. The older students went to Symphoria in Syracuse and the younger students went bowling at the CAC in Sherrill. All the students celebrated a special mass together. An open house was also held with six graders providing tours to ten families. The fourth grade class participated in the Ash Wednesday Mass with Holy Cross.

Excellence - There are currently 123 students enrolled. Open registration is now open, and four students have already started the process. In January students made Valentine cards for Karing Kitchen. In February they collected toiletries for the St. Pat's Food Pantry.

This concludes the Principal's report.
Comments/Questions: None at this time.

Teacher Report:

Katie Boone presented the Teacher Report.

PK 3	ELA- We are working on letter recognition, tracing, and writing. We are on letter N. We are practicing writing and identifying our names and those of our classmates. Math- We are working on identifying graphs, patterns, and numbers. We are practicing counting objects and also writing and identifying numbers up to number 6. Science- we are focusing on properties of matter such as long and short, smooth and rough, loud and quiet. We have also been doing amazing science projects like making bouncing bubbles, mixing colors, and floating shapes. Social Studies- we are learning about community helpers. Religion- we are focusing on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and how even at a young age we can grow closer to God during lent.
PK4	PK4 is continuing to work on their letter recognition, writing and sounds. We're learning about syllables. In math we continue to write and count numbers. We're also working on patterns. In science we have dissolved candy in different solutions, we learned how to mix and make new colors, as well as sink and float. In SS we have learned about Martin Luther King, Groundhogs day, and will be exploring what President's Day is. In religion we really enjoyed Catholic Schools week. We learned why CSW is so special. We learned about the Tabernacle and we even got to play with a pretend

	<p>Tabernacle with a pretend Eucharist. We are singing new wonderful songs in religion as well. PK has also been working on building floor puzzles together with their classmates, making Valentines day crafts, and learning through play.</p>
Kindergarten	<p>Science-Animal adaptations in winter SS-How jobs have changed over time Math-Comparing numbers Reading-Sight words, reading fluently, parts of a story Writing-Forming sentences independently and remembering a capital at the beginning, spaces between words, and punctuation Religion-Different ways to talk to God</p>
1	<p>First grade is working on sequencing stories we read and also using time order words in our writing tasks. In math we are learning all about subtraction and will start learning new addition and subtraction strategies soon. In social studies we are learning about some symbols and traditions in the United States and in science we are going to start exploring facts about the moon and the stars. We are focusing on our virtue this month which is kindness and talking about all the ways we can show kindness to others.</p>
2	<p>In Math, 2nd grade just started working on telling time on analog clocks. In Religion we have been focused on Lent and understanding how forgiveness is a gift from God. We also have been reciting the act of contrition daily. In Science we have been looking at landforms and how they form by erosion, we recently made a landform model out of cornmeal, salt, and water and dripped water on it to see how it erodes. In Social Studies we have been focused on historical events through our scholastic news, we have been talking about Black History month and Presidents Day. In ELA we have been working in centers with focuses on our phonics skill for the week, reading stories using our high frequency words (and phonics skills), working on reading comprehension (answering questions about the stories we are reading), and writing using prompts with focusing on proper sentence structure and restating. We celebrated the 100th day of school on Thursday 2/15! The students made great 100 day posters of 100 things and we hung them in the hall for display.</p>
3	<p>3rd grade is working on area and perimeter as well as memorizing multiplication facts to 12. We are working on context clues and using the text to ask and answer questions relating to the text. In science we are working on animal and plant lifecycles. Social studies is how our past affects our present day lives. In Religion our focus is on the season of Lent.</p>
4	<p>4th grade is learning about the 10 Commandments in greater detail. In math we are finding the area and perimeter of shapes, including finding the length of unknown sides. In reading and writing we continue to read in small groups based on our reading level; and answer extended response questions that go along with our books. In science we are learning about volcanoes and the types of lava each produces. In social studies we are finishing up presentations about influential African Americans in US history. 4th grade is also participating in the Prodigy (online program) math challenge. Upon tallying the points earned as of today our 4th grade class is in the lead with 506 questions correct!</p>

5	<p>In ELA, 5th graders are writing an argumentative essay addressing the prompt: Should learning cursive be required in schools? Based on the available text evidence, the students decided to argue that cursive should be required. In Social Studies, students are learning about the reasons the English explored and settled in the Americas.</p> <p>Math class has been focusing on decimals, and how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide them. Students are learning about the Earth's rotation and the moon cycles in science class. They will show what they know about moon phases with an Oreo cookie investigation-yum!</p>
6	<p>In ELA, 6th graders are writing an argumentative essay addressing the prompt: Should Daylight Saving Time (DST) be eliminated? Based on the available text evidence, the students decided to argue that DST should be eliminated. In Social Studies, students are learning about Judaism and will soon begin a unit on Ancient Egypt and Kush. Sixth Graders have been working on ratios and percentages. This will come in handy when they start shopping! Science class has been focused on rocks and minerals. We grew crystals, created presentations about rocks, and are having fun examining and comparing the different kinds of rocks. Both fifth and sixth grades are benefitting from having a student teacher, Mrs. Genei from SUNY Oneonta, who will be with us until March 8.</p>

Teacher Report concluded.

PTC Report:

Rachel Pace was not present to present the PTC Report. In her absence, Mrs. Healt reported that this year's Basket Bonanza is coming up on May 4, 2024 and will be held at the Verona Fire Hall. Parents are asked to donate a basket valued at \$75. Those who do not donate will be assessed \$75 on their FACTs bill if they do not participate by Friday. The teachers are currently hosting a Gertrude Hawk fundraiser.

PTC Report concluded.

Final concerns/comments/questions:

Melissa Gwilt commented that she is interested in helping fill the gap with Alice Nolan's retirement, adding that that is what she does professionally.

Superintendent Sansone thanked the Board for letting her attend. She noted that she and two assistant superintendents are attending all the schools' Board meetings. They are looking to help increase communication and help with best practices. Their participation was not because of an incident; just an effort to be more supportive.

There were no other comments, questions, or concerns at this time.

Adjournment:

Father James closed the meeting with a blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.