

**SJS Education Commission Minutes**  
**October 20, 2022**  
**5:30pm Subcommittees, 6:00pm Commission**  
**School Cafeteria and Faculty Lounge**

A. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Not in attendance : Amy Mefford, Mary Hudson, Al Johnson, Brigette Sullivan

B. Meeting Minutes: Approved by Commission

C. Reports:

a. **Principal's Report-** Family Fun day was a success, roughly \$2,000 collected, Garage Sale had good traffic and will continue to discuss location and time of year, Trunk or Treat Oct. 21st in the school parking lot. Before Care numbers are down and hours have been reduced due to lack of participation, will continue to report on monthly and review family needs.

b. **Pastor's Report-** None will add input as needed

c. **Finance Report-** Thank you Ann for putting together reports to be shared

June 2022

28% tuition- Lower than Diocese recommendation

15% contributions- Higher than Diocese recommendation

45% parish support- Higher than Diocese recommendation

CAT Match- Cat retirees and employees can participate for a \$1 to \$1 match we currently have \$7,800 our funds are being used for purchase of 3 Smartboards, Paint supplies, Scholarships for Non-Catholic families. Hoping that like last year that CAT will have a 2 for 1 match in November.

Empower Illinois- Option for donations where donors who have tax liability in the state of Illinois can donate and receive 75% tax credit. For example if a donation of \$100 was given at tax time the donor would receive back \$75 of that donation. Information regarding a webinar will be in Mrs. Sarff's November newsletter as well as in blue folders. The information has also been shared with the Parish center. Father mentioned speaking about Empower at Masses.

Closing the Gap in school cost can be achieved through 3rd party donations

D. Unfinished Business:

a. None

E. New Business:

a. **2023/24 Tuition Recommendation** (vote)

Analysis of current tuition as well as recommended tuition for upcoming school year. Included inflation changes in the past year, subcommittee's discussion in the previous year, rates currently for nearby schools in comparison to SJS. Noted Blessed Sacrament has 2 rates one for Catholic and 1 for Non-Catholics, the Non-Catholic rate is much higher. Mentioned if it would be possible to share comparative tuition with school families. In the analysis Mrs. Sarff calculates how many school families have 1, 2, 3, 4 children this information is for the current school families. Reminded that in this process we should remove ourselves as parents as everyone is directly affected by tuition decisions. Current recommendation is a 5% increase to 1 child and 50% of the 1st child for any additional children. It was difficult to determine schools' actual inflation percentage due to a varying number of factors. 5% was decided on as an increase from 3% the previous school year.

Father mentioned that the 5% increase will not be enough to cover any gap due to inflation that we are currently facing. As our energy bill alone has had a substantial increase. Suggested a possible 7% or 8% increase to bridge the gap. Mr. Brian stated due to what was provided by Ann that the Operational costs were down this year and that

we need to find the actual inflation rate for our school to better determine the % increase. Father mentioned going through Tazewell County to determine inflation in our county. Father is unsure of lower operational cost due to increase in electricity, taxes etc. If decided to change to a 7% increase, 1 child tuition would be \$3,901. Father reminded us that we must decide on what the subcommittee is actually proposing as any changes would come at a later time. The recommendation stands to increase 1 child tuition by 5% while all additional children would pay 50% of 1st child tuition.

Vote taken: Approved by Ed Commission to be presented to Finance

b. **Communications Plan** (discuss)

Mrs. Larkner spoke briefly on communication including emails and the possibility of revisiting the App conversation from last year. Discussion was paused as a commission.

Mrs. Larkner is currently working on the communication piece to be shared with the Parish and school families. She plans to remove the section on tuition for the winter communication but will add it back in the spring. Communication plans to include fundraisers, academics, Empower Illinois, CAT Match donations. Christa will send out to all members for review before it is shared out. Christa will also be working on what to share out at Masses, and monthly communication to go out in Mrs. Sarff's newsletter from the Commission.

c. **November Commission Meeting Date** (discuss)-Due to conflicting activities the November meeting date will be changed to **November 10th, 2022**

d. Subcommittee Reports:

- i. **Catholic Identity/Academic Excellence**- No one from the subcommittee was present at the meeting : stating that this group has a goal to evaluate if our students are academically excellent as they move into high school. Mrs. Sarff is arranging meetings and the subcommittee will be meeting to determine if this is an area that needs improvement.
- ii. **Enrollment / Marketing / Development**- Garage Sales have donated \$10,000 to our school. Planning a Mashies trivia night possibly in Feb. we receive 10% back from food purchases. Will confirm if we receive money back from alcohol sales. Mrs. Larkner is beginning to look into how to improve our Alumni database searching for middle ground of communication with seniors. Alumni of the year application was changed with input from Miss Oberle, Miss Moore, and Miss Willoughby. Application will be going out in the Parish bulletin as well as in Blue folders. Deadline for applications is January 15th, 2023.
- iii. **Finance**- Discussed in previous section of the meeting
- iv. **Facilities**- Mr. Small has repaired the concrete on the stairs and the caution tape has been removed. Hopeful that this step will allow us more time or will possibly be something that gets completed as needed. Security cameras plan to be installed over winter break.

F. Commission Member's "Round Table"

Lori Behrends- Believes that the Commission needs to take time to look into PreK to make sure the community is aware that we have a preschool and what we offer at SJS.

Mrs. Sarff- Explained the reason she believes the App did not get approved last year and shares concerns about how parents want to receive school communication. Will make sure to include this question in the upcoming school survey.

Colette Willoughby- Downtown Pekin Trick or Treat - Saturday, October 22nd from 11am-1pm. SJS students 6th-8th graders made Playdoh to be handed out at this event.

Nicole Allen- Discussed some opportunities with Jay but will bring up at a later date

John Shallenberger- Would like more information on our plan to discuss 6th grade concerns about combined classes for next year. Mrs. Sarff stated an upcoming meeting is in the works for 6th grade families.

Father- gives permission for \$ to be collected at Mashie's fundraiser, mentioned no matter if it was a person over the app he feels the information that was presented to Finance was confusing and unclear. Advised for clearer presentation to finance in the future.

G. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Next meeting **November 10th, 2022**, 5:30pm Subcommittees, 6:00pm Commission

<b>Commissioner Subcommittee Membership</b>	
Catholic Identity / Academic Excellence	Al Johnson (chair), Mary Hudson, Amy Mefford, Nicole Allen DRE (liaison), SJS Teacher (liaison)
Enrollment / Marketing / Development	Gabe Hart (chair), Lori Behrends, Christa Larkner, Amanda Seelye Colette Willoughby (liaison)
Finance	Daniel Brian (chair), Father Andrejek, Mary Jo Sarff
Facilities	Jay Wendelin (chair), John Shallenberger Bob Small (liaison)

**2021-22 Commission Meeting Dates:** August 23, September 15, October 20, November 17, January 19, February 16, March 16, and April 20

\*Unless otherwise noted, all Commission meetings are from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the SJS Faculty Lounge.

Subcommittees meet in the SJS Cafeteria from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. on the same days as Commission meetings. Additional subcommittee meetings as needed, to be scheduled by each subcommittee.

**St. Joseph Value Proposition**

Choose St. Joseph School and choose everything for your child. We offer traditional Catholic values, a safe, family-like environment, a challenging curriculum with supportive teachers and opportunities to excel outside the classroom.