

Ss. Peter and Paul School Board  
Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2015

---

**Attendance:**

Renee Crowder, President (present)	Mary Lowe (excused)	Fr. John Beveridge (present)
Aimee Biermann (present)	Fontez Mark (excused)	Fr. Steve Arisman (excused)
Susan Eade (present)	Jessica Runnalls (present)	Michael Palmer (present)
Kelly Gaither (excused)	Amy Smith (excused)	Teri Lesicko (excused)
Maggie Grotefendt (present)	Michelle Webb (present)	Dianne Wepking (present)
Ryan Klaas (present)		Bryan Winterbottom (present)

**Agenda Topics:**

1. Meeting Minutes: Minutes distributed for review. Approved.
2. Finance Report: We have not yet received the information from the Diocese of the annual pay increase, health insurance rates, and pension rates/increase (note: even if these rates increase, part of the increase flows through to the parish and part to the employees themselves).
3. Principals Report
  - i. Upcoming Dates
    1. 2015-2016 Registration is March 30<sup>th</sup>.
    2. The last day of school as of now is May 15<sup>th</sup> (for 8<sup>th</sup> grade it is May 8<sup>th</sup>). Graduation is May 12<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation is April 11<sup>th</sup>. No dates have changed from last meeting.
    3. Teacher evaluations are upcoming.
  - ii. NCEA IFG (ACRE) Test, a general test for grades 5/8 to measure Catholic knowledge, was recently administered and the test results are not back yet.
  - iii. KC Breakfast to benefit the school's technology program is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Profits will be split with the Knights of Columbus.
  - iv. Calendar for 2015-16: No dates have changed since the first draft of the school calendar was shared at last Board meeting.
4. Athletics Report: Volleyball ceremony for 8<sup>th</sup> graders scheduled at the game Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
5. Old Business
  - a. Fundraising Update
    - i. Trivia Night Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: Profits increased 40% despite a decrease in donations and sponsors. Attendance was up – 36 tables increased from 22 tables last year – and there were lots of auction items. It was found that 20% of those attending bought raffle tickets, and later into the evening, no further sales of raffle tickets were made, so the raffles could be cut off /winners announced sooner to offset the effect of people being unable to hear/losing interest/leaving early.
    - ii. Golf: Info coming in next 3 weeks. No major changes planned to this fundraiser.
    - iii. General Statement on Fundraising: So far, every school-wide fundraiser has increased this year. Overall, ahead of schedule for parents' personal fundraising goals compared to last year, and fewer families lagging substantially behind at this point, as well.

## Ss. Peter and Paul School Board

### Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2015

---

- iv. Yankee Candle: fundraising saw an increase over last year. Further discussed the suggestion from last month's meeting to allow those who exceed required fundraising in current year to use a portion (25%) of the overage toward the next year's fundraising requirement. The remainder would go toward covering the fundraising requirement for those requiring financial assistance or not meeting the fundraising requirement. Considering trying this during the next school year as an incentive and to learn if people will continue to push higher. \*Note: This will be communicated separately of the registration letter (as well as on the web), so as not to confuse the registration process.
  - v. Possible events for additional fundraiser: Grizzlies game or Cosmic Bingo – Maggie looking into New Year's Eve for Cosmic Bingo.
- b. Building Update
- i. Master Plan Committee is meeting again March 4, 2015.
  - ii. Incorporating suggestions received during presentations into the drawings/plans.
  - iii. Gathering advice for Phase Two of the giving campaign.
  - iv. Creating a timeline for the future, including the demolition of the Parish Offices and their temporary relocation to the school library and the "white house".
- c. Parish Website
- i. The new parish website is up and reported to be functioning well.
- d. Fr. McGivney HS Update: No new updates, other than construction being somewhat behind schedule, but no specifics or changes to the plan of when it is to open.
6. New Business
- a. Curriculum Update: Chromebooks. Math Series will be on Chromebooks, as well as one other subject, either Religion or English. Applicable students (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) will receive their Chromebooks the first week of school. Next year, we should be able to add on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students as well. SSPP will be choosing between two math programs. Regardless of the program chosen, the school will still need to buy consumable workbooks, even though the hardback textbooks will be online only. While specifically unknown at this time, it is being reported to us that the school should be able to receive six years of use for the cost of a hardback textbook.
    - i. Go Math Program: One choice being evaluating for the subject of Math. Offers many good features include parental logon, and the ability to watch videos explaining class lessons. Work completed while offline is able to be saved and uploaded once online connection is made. The Go Math program is supposed to be responsive to the level the student is performing at, and adjust with harder or easier questions as needed. A potential negative at this point, which may be true for any program, is a lack of thorough understanding of how the students will show their written work on paper for the assignments, which are to be turned in electronically. This might be especially true for the upper level grades of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Envision: The second choice being evaluated for the subject of Math. This system is to be presented to SSPP on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Expected to be a solid choice as well.
  - b. Tuition/Fundraising for 2015/16

## Ss. Peter and Paul School Board

### Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2015

---

- i. There was no dissent among present board members to keep the tuition/fundraising amounts flat, with no increase, for the 2015-2016 school year.
  - ii. According to the CARA Report and SSPP's research in our area, SSPP's tuition is under the national average without the fundraising requirement; when it is included as part of the total expense, SSPP is just barely over the national average. SSPP is also priced favorably compared to local comparable private schools.
  - iii. It was mentioned that the possibility exists that one day, SSPP could follow the model of tithing 100% with zero tuition due (tax deductible tithing). A few schools in St. Louis are said to do this, plus the benchmark is the Wichita, KC Diocese (a system which took many years to develop). Our bishop is appointing a priest to focus on this subject nearly full time. Our Diocese approves of this model, so we will be hearing more about it in the future.
- c. Recruitment of New Families and Students: The topic was brought up as to how we can we reach out to new families and students in our community, especially across cultural divides. We currently send letters to PSR families inviting them to learn more/attend school at SSPP.
- d. Registration Letters. It is the plan that these will go out Friday, March 6th. The nonrefundable registration fee is \$150 per family, which is considered part of tuition and will be applied towards the total amount of tuition.
1. Wording Choices and Content of the registration letters.
    - a. Headcount: It is important for planning purposes that the school knows how many families are returning; paperwork/headcount is more important than the actual fees at this time. SSPP is willing to be flexible and work with parents for which the registration fee is a hardship currently. One option is to pay the \$150 at this time or choose to be billed.
    - b. Motivation to Continue Fundraising: Discussed that the letter should reference how important it is to show our appreciation for our teachers and their sacrifices in their choice to teach at a Catholic school. Note: though it would be too lengthy to discuss in the registration letter, an explanation of why and how we fundraise for the purpose of motivation and clarification could be added to the school website.
    - c. Leave option open for future tuition and fundraising increases: Though we have had great success the past two years in meeting our increased fundraising goals, we must still continue to increase our fundraising in order to keep up with the increasing costs to educate the students, provide for our teachers, and continue to operate in accordance with the preset formula for the percentage of funding that comes from the parish vs. the parents.
  2. Communication of no increase to tuition for the 2015-2016 school year.

7. Next Meeting: April 7 at Manning Hall