

St. James School Council Meeting Minutes

10/16/2024

Those present:

- Mr. Eric Chamberlain
- Michelle Wilson
- Michelle Rainey
- Eric Kassenbrock
- Ryan Dewig
- Josh Elpers

The meeting opened with prayer. Mission Statement read by those present. September minutes are approved and will be posted.

Old Business:

School Family Accountability Plan Update – Create an account by 1/1/25, Official rollout 6/1/25 but can start entering hours now for practice.

Architectural assessments are being done by companies. Fr. Andrew will probably be at the next meeting to give updates. Improvements needed to the intercom/phone system.

Principal's Report:

Staff Faith Formation – Receiving great feedback from teachers on Faith Formation at Faculty meetings. We have had 2 of 6 sessions with Fr. Andrew.

Safe Environment Audit – We were selected to be audited regarding safe environment training. Fr. Andrew, Connie Baehl, and Mr. Chamberlain will visit the Catholic Center for the in-person audit on Tuesday, November 5th.

Hunger Bowl – We raised over \$300 for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

Archery returns for a second year at St. James.

Speech meets began on October 15th. Everyone placed.

Grandparents' day and Walkathon – Both were a great success. We had over 300 grandparents here with our students, staff, and volunteers. Then in the afternoon we enjoyed the Walkathon "color run"

Cougar Leadership Program – Student jobs will begin Monday. Students applied throughout September and were selected for one of the following roles: Morning announcement team, Preschool Morning assistant, or Early Drop-Off Supervisors.

Red Ribbon week begins October 28th.

School Safety Grant – St. James was awarded 80% of what we requested in the school safety grant. This was used for fully stocked, matching safety/emergency bags and also our Youth First Program.

Upcoming Events:

October 18th: Quarter 1 Report Cards home

October 18th: 7th-8th grade dance at St. James

October 21st: Faith Sharing with Sr. Irma

October 22nd: Speech meet

October 23rd: 6th grade Field Trip to Mater Dei Fall Program

October 23rd: Parent Teacher Conferences 12:45-5:45, 12:30 Dismissal- NO after school Daycare
October 24th: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:15-5:45
October 24th: K-2nd Field Trip
October 28th: Red Ribbon Week Begins
October 29th: Speech Meet
October 30th: Mater Dei Band visits for marching band performance
October 31st: Happy Birthday Fr. Betz!
October 31st: Last day for shorts
November 4th: Faith Sharing with Sr. Irma
November 4th: Speech Meet
November 5th: NO Vanderburgh bus
November 7th: Spirit Dress
November 8th: 1pm Veterans Day Assembly in Church-Open to the public
November 9th: Dressing Day
November 15th: Quarter 2 Midterms
November 15th: Picture retake day
November 18th: Faith Sharing with Sr. Irma
November 20th: City Speech Meet
November 21st: Free Dress/Spirit Bottoms
November 27th-29th: No School-Thanksgiving Break

New Business:

Diocesan school council meeting follow up- discussion about School resource officer or at least having more police patrols in our area and talking to school parents that are in law enforcement about doing walkthroughs at school. Outside doors will always be locked other than the main doors at morning drop off and the main door at dismissal for one point of entry.

Discussion of fire exit stairs from the old school. How do we avoid using it without disrupting other classes? Can we have a place/cubbies for kids to leave books, so they aren't going up and down with full arms?

Mr. Chamberlain showed the council the new safety/emergency bags that were purchased with grant money. Each class has an identical bag that can be used in an emergency.

Sub-committee reports:

Marketing- School activities being reported/pictured in The Message and local papers.

Legislative- School Choice vote soon, hoping for universal coverage or the tiers might change.

Youth Group – October gathering on 10/24 at Michele Elpers after school until 5 with hot dogs

PTO – handout- Grandparents Day and Walkathon on 10/10, breakfast 10/20/24 7-11am, Dressing fundraiser week of 11/8, next PTO meeting 10/28 6pm

Athletics – Switching seasons from volleyball/XC to Basketball/Archery, all going smoothly

Technology – New grant written to MEO for iPads to use with new app OSMO was successful worth \$1,200.

Meeting closed with prayer

Next meeting will be November 13th, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Resource room