**St. James School Council Meeting Minutes**

**10/10/2023**

Those present:

* Mr. Eric Chamberlain
* Evan Hipp
* Michelle Rainey
* Christy Karcher
* Michelle Wilson
* Ryan Dewig
* Ms. Emily Siami – staff visitor

Meeting opened with prayer. Mission Statement read by those present.

Staff visitor Emily Siami, new to St. James this year. 7th grade homeroom and middle school ELA and Literature teacher. Teachers and staff have been helpful and welcoming. It’s important to her to work on the balanced whole child, especially with more children being anxious. She feels St. James excels in our focus on Catholicism and feels the main disadvantage we have might be a lack of available resources due to our small size.

Minutes from previous meeting reviewed and approved.

**Old Business:**

No financial report

Brief discussion on September virtual meeting with the diocese.

**Principal’s report:**

Some unfortunate events have required us to make some new hires and adjustments. I cannot thank staff enough for their flexibility and patience. Happy to say at the current time, we are fully staffed.

* Megan Muncy replaced by Katie Schaber as the K-1 Aide
* Katie Schaber replaced by Barb Stolz as the Tuesday/Thursday Preschool Aide
* April Bruce and Kimberly Bent are now part-time cooks daily.
* Tracy Tank is now the cafeteria manager
* Joan Kays returning as a MWF Preschool aide
* Paige Holzmeyer has accepted the TWR school secretary/admin assistant previously held by Sara Raider

Student Council is underway for 5th – 8th graders. They had their first event, a bonfire, this past Friday evening. Teachers said the students were excellent and had a great time. Received great parent feedback as well.

Cougar Leadership Program will begin the week of October 17th. 63 K-8th grade students sent in applications and will be participating.

6th – 8th grade speech is underway. Meets will be on 10/11, 10/17, 10/24, 10/30.

Walk-a-Thon postponed until Spring 2024. It will include a Color Run for the kids.

Week of October 16th: No Childrens’ Mass, Priests at Convocation Week gatherings

Upcoming Events**:**

* 10/10: First Reconciliation Meeting
* 10/12: Grandparents Day
* 10/13-10/16: Fall Break
* 10/17: 8th grade to MD for PSAT
* 10/18: Teacher observations begin
* 10/18-10/19: Parent Teacher Conferences
* 10/19: Schoolwide Earthquake Drill
* 10/22: PTO Breakfast
* 10/23: School Choice Audit
* 10/26-10/27: INPAC and Camp Ondessonk Trips
* 10/30: Fire Department Presentations to K-2nd
* 10/31: Halloween, K-2nd Field Trip, Mass moved to 11/1 for All Saints Day

**New Business:**

School Improvement Plan:

Need measurable goals that hold us accountable. The next few meetings will focus on the School Improvement plan. We will work on Goal 1 at the November meeting. Members need to come ready with ideas to improve Goal 1: Refine the strategic plan to have relatable, concise, useful, and measurable goals that we can strive for the betterment of St. James school.

**Sub-committees:**

Marketing: Amie Hulfachor will be doing marketing for both Sts. Peter and Paul and us. She is updating the website.

PTA**:** the PTA budget will be posted to show the needs of the school that PTA helps with.

Youth Group: 10/7 6th-8th enjoyed Fall Freshtivities at St. Bernard’s with a haunted house, pumpkin carving and more. 5th grade only will gather later in October for faith, fellowship, and activities. November will be service work for all grades.

Technology: Michelle Wilson handed out info on a Christian Book Fair to consider replacing the current book fair company, with the goal of offering books with good Christian morals and values to our kids.

No other sub-committee reports

Meeting closed with prayer

**Next meeting Tuesday November 7th, 5:30 in the Resource Room**