



Community Meeting Notes from May 31, 2018

In Attendance:

Bob Schick, Co-Chair, Board of Governors

Lou Horvath, Board of Governors

Colleen Richards, Headmaster

Staff: John Marchand, Sue Mattina, Sue Monczynski

Parents: over 30 families were represented

I. Prayer: 2nd Joyful Mystery, the Visitation

II. State of the Community—Colleen Richards

- A. In 2008, SJBS was a brand new school; the 12 sets of parents knew their involvement with the school was vital. This formed strong community bonds. By the grace of God, the school has grown and daily functioning has stabilized. Of 90 families, many are not much involved with the school community. There are strong bonds with some families but weak ones with others.

We need your help. We want to strengthen the school community.

1. Communicate with the families you know.
2. Pray about ways to build this community, and let Colleen know what ideas you have (crichards@johnboscoschools.org).

B. Some numbers about school growth:

1. 152 now registered for next year (150 this year)—We expect a few more.
2. Nine of our 8th graders will attend high school in Rochester next year; eight of these students are registered at Chesterton for 9th grade.

III. Current Financial Picture—Bob Schick

- A. This is a very lean season for us every year, because we go two months without receiving tuition payments.

1. Board members have written personal checks to make payroll in May. June is likely to be the same.
2. Annually (including income from the Gala) we fall about \$200,000 short of covering expenses.
3. Our earned income is tuition. This year, tuition income is between \$400-450,000. The budget is around \$800,000. The largest piece of this is salaries, over \$600,000. (There are 23 paid staff members this year, 16 full-time.)

B. Actions to remedy this problem

1. Tuition increases — Next year's tuition is increasing by about 3%. Future increases should be expected. Parents made comments regarding tuition rates.
 - a) Some say we must increase tuition to reflect the real cost of the education.
 - b) Others say the low tuition is very important for their families; the education is very important for the children's faith and shouldn't be out of reach.
 - c) Tuition at local Catholic schools is significantly higher than ours. Tuition at NAPCIS schools and other independent schools is significantly higher than ours as well.
2. Comprehensive Campaign—The Board of Governors has hired Cogeo, an organization that leads fundraising campaigns for non-profits, to work with us in our first major campaign. Anne Smith and the Board of Governors are very active in getting this campaign going this summer.
 - a) A Case Statement is being developed and will soon be in print to present to potential donors.
 - b) Anne is focusing on lists of current donors and possible new donors to SJBS~CAR.
3. We need your help.
 - a) It is important for us to get appointments to speak with persons who would appreciate our school's mission and have the means to support us. Having a connection with these individuals is key to us being able to meet with them.
(1) Consider the people you know who would have an affinity to all, or part, of the school's mission. Let Anne Smith know who they are (email: jsmith30@rochester.rr.com, phone: 703-1285).

4. Action step for everyone: Prayer!

- a) **SJBS Rosary Society—Offer one decade of the Rosary each day for all the needs of the SJBS~CAR Community.** Contact Ben Anderson for your official membership card (benanderson@benanderson.us).
 - b) **Eucharistic Adoration**
 - (1) **holy hours offered up for the glory of God and to entrust all our needs to His Providence.**
 - (2) where to go: St. John of Rochester, St. Jude, Holy Spirit, St. Theodore, St. Jerome (Tuesdays), or online: St. John of Rochester, savior.org, St. Martin of Tours, Louisville, etc.
 - (3) We could have an online signup for holy hours, even though we are all at different places.
- C. Feedback, Ideas, and Suggestions so far
- 1. Parents appreciated the blessings of SJBS~CAR.
 - 2. Parents appreciated the transparency and ask for more of it.
 - 3. Parents asked for notifications of what is needed, so they can help.
 - 4. Parents suggested running additional fundraisers to make money for the school—every bit helps.
 - 5. Parents suggested communicating the tuition gap more fully and more frequently: written comparison of the cost of this education and the tuition rate, with an option to pay the difference.
 - 6. Naming rights could be included in the comprehensive campaign, to create additional interest to donors.
 - 7. Grant writers needed: a good grant writer can read and follow directions well as well as write well.
 - 8. Established SJBS~CAR parents could connect with entering parents to help them learn their way around the school community.
- D. Response to Agenda Item III seems to be an answer to Agenda Item II.

Deo Gratias!