

**St. John Vianney School Committee Meeting**  
**March 7, 2022**

Attending:

- Andy Smith
- Brian Shimon
- Mary Pentler
- Ashley Smith
- Anders Hendrickson
- Colleen Gilbert
- Jenny Jansen
- Randall Freeman
- Pat Bergin
- John Sloane
- Monica O'Brien
- Halligan Czarnecki
- Heather Ferber

Report:

- Principal's Report
  - Summary of accreditation feedback
    - SJV School meets or exceeds expectations/benchmarks on all benchmarks in all 4 domains. (Exceeds expectations on 25% of the benchmarks!)
    - We exceeded SJV's results 7 years ago. (In prior accreditation, we met some benchmarks "with recommendations"; no recommendations this time.)
    - Heather: We need to develop a few goals for the upcoming years in the between-accreditation cycle. ("School Improvement Plan") Heather and Colleen will lead this effort.
    - Randall: We need to ensure the whole parish knows about this, including parishioners without schoolchildren
  - Annual Report
    - Heather: Other schools in the area create an annual report
    - We would need to determine what the goals and timing of the annual report would be.
    - Mary: SJV stands out for its community; that should be a focus of the report. All schools in the area (including public schools) have strong academics.
    - Randy: Need good communications to attract families. Archdiocese may have support for new web platforms. Our target market should be families sending children to public schools, not families at other Catholic schools. Can we target students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade (who would be switching public schools anyway with the transition to middle school)?
    - Heather: What is the timing? Whenever we can? A cycle? Summertime is best for recruiting purposes.

- Who should own this? Long-Range Planning Subcommittee will focus on content, other parish/school employees can help prepare graphics.
    - Goal is a brochure, easy to find on the website and download.
  - Covid updates
    - Masks downgraded from “strongly recommended” to “optional.” No more mandated distancing, masking in cafeteria.
    - Still home quarantines when test positive for COVID.
    - Children are already happy to be eating next to their friends.
    - Brian: This is the plan going forward unless something big changes.
- Nominations for School Committee
  - First place to start is people who have been on school subcommittees; Heather et al. have reached out to some, some are interested
  - N.B. Colleen, Pat, and Heather will rotate off school committee next year. Can have up to 4 join (maximum of 12 on committee)
  - Monday, April 25 is discernment meeting; final discernment in May
  - Committee members should suggest names soon.
- Randy Freeman – School Strategy Group
  - Two goals: increase enrollment, close the financial gap
  - Enrollment: “All we have to do is have 4 sections of 15 K3 students” (60 students total).
    - But we lack the facilities to do this.
  - Funding Gap: Difference between tuition and cost-to-educate
    - 10-15 years ago, the Annual Fund was established to help (Teacher improvements, retention, technology, tuition assistance)
    - Fizzled a bit after the president-principal model changed
      - N.B. never more than 1/3 of school families participated
    - Options (developed with Greg Herrle):
      - strengthen the annual fund – not so great option, has been done
      - Raffles (e.g., each family has to sell some number of raffle tickets) – conflicts with idea of the parish festival
      - School Excellence Fund
        - Key idea: solicit a donation from school families
        - When signing up in May – ask school families
        - Alumni, grandparents, parishioners – let families continue to support the school
    - On a related note, still working on getting returning families to commit and pay
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be 1 or 2 sections depending on enrollment
- Subcommittee reports
  - Advancement
    - Moving on to retention of families
    - Met with Home & School about big-picture welcoming and retention of families; divided responsibilities
    - Mentor families – Katie will help
    - Coffee with the Principal – for new families & transfer families
    - Communication plan (welcome postcard, email series)

- Home & School welcome events throughout the year
  - Plans to capture families from Baptism – welcome them even earlier than 3K.
  - Fourth of July Parade in Brookfield
- Policy Committee (Kevin in absentia)
  - Working on virtual instruction policy – coordinating with Archdiocesan policies (3 hours of instruction for a day count)
  - Parental Code of Conduct was adopted by email vote of school committee
  - There is a new middle school detention policy.
    - The committee asked whether this new policy will go into the handbook. The answer is yes.
    - The goal is to foster a positive, respectful culture among students.
    - Throughout the year there had been work on the middle school behavior
    - Middle school teachers wanted this, put the proposal forward.
    - Teachers supervise it, were willing to commit.
    - What will students do during detention? Restorative discipline reflection activity.
    - The committee encouraged the school to be sure there is something for the kids to do, not just sitting in silence. If discipline activity gets finished, then they should do chores or something else productive.
    - Other committee members noted parents felt a lack of communication. Some families felt it was sudden, and parents heard rumors from children before hearing from the school directly.
    - The committee recommended over-communicating and listening to parent feedback over the next weeks.
  - Long Range Planning (Pat)
    - Working on survey results on standards based grading; will report next time.
    - Full parent survey will go out 3/28
- Adjourned 8:00 pm