

**St. John Vianney School Committee Meeting**  
**April 25, 2022**

Attending:

- Heather Ferber
- Halligan Czarnecki
- Brian Shimon
- Kevin Galezewski
- Sean Parkinson (discerning)
- Colleen Gilbert
- Joanne Volkert (discerning)
- Pat Bergin
- Greg Herrle
- Ashley Smith
- Anders Hendrickson

Report:

- Greg Herrle – Finance Subcommittee
  - As introduction to discerning visitors, explained what finance subcommittee does
  - Committee approved 5% tuition increase. Three drivers:
    - Compensation & benefits updates for the staff. (Compensation constitutes 80% of the total budget.)
    - Outstanding registrations for existing families leads to risk. The school needs to budget higher to account for that risk.
    - Uncertainty around the School Excellence Fund.
  - School Excellence Fund – goal is to tie more directly the requests to families to the gap between tuition and cost-to-educate.
    - The request letter is to be sent back with the tuition contract.
    - Goal is to become more financially secure and stable, require less financial subsidy from the parish.
  - Brian Shimon comments: SJV is competitive compared to other archdiocesan elementary/middle schools. Faculty who come here receive pay raises.
    - The goal is still about 70% of public school compensation.
  - Parish guidelines want parish to support 40% of school budget, but goal is for at most 33% of parish budget to go to school. The former is true, but the latter is not; right now 40% of parish budget is supporting school. (One cause is declining stewardship at parish.)
- Introductions and welcome to discerning visitors
  - Sean Parkinson
    - Moved from Chicago last August. Children in the school. Wants to help out, be more involved, and add perspective.
  - Joanne Volkert
    - 3 children, 2 at SJV

- Has served on advancement subcommittee
  - Wants to get more involved
- Subcommittee Reports
  - Advancement (Jeni Janson absent, so Heather reported)
    - Working on marketing
    - Welcome email series to new families
    - Advancement meets approximately monthly for 1-2 hours
  - Policy (Kevin)
    - Parent Code of Conduct is in the handbook now
      - Has been sent out in Shamrock Weekly
    - Virtual Learning policy is drafted, waiting on teacher feedback
    - Looking to trim down handbook for brevity
  - Long Range Planning (Pat)
    - Despite the name, this subcommittee doesn't really do long range planning; instead, does parent surveys.
    - Most recent survey: middle school standards-based grading (SBG)
      - Very high response rate (46/~80 families)
      - The survey results show admiration for the teachers' implementation of this.
      - However, parents are having trouble identifying where and when their children need help and if they are working to their fullest potential in a timely manner.
      - Diminished opportunity for children to excel – 4s are not given out at all
      - There is an impression that SBG amounts to pass/fail, without distinguishing between A work and C work.
      - One committee member relayed a comment from high schools that a SBG report card is not as informative for high school admissions
      - Some students take multiple tries, with low effort, to get to a 3.
      - A lengthy discussion ensued about various concerns with SBG.
      - SBG in practice is giving less feedback to parents
      - Kids are less happy. Are teachers happy with it?
      - Is this a result of a false egalitarian mindset, that no one is worthy of distinction, no one is "A+"?
      - The Archdiocese is requiring that we use SBG, but is there perhaps flexibility in implementing it?
      - Are all Arch schools implementing it the same way?
      - Public area middle schools do not use standards based grading.
      - There is a rumor that no students receive 4s, but in fact some do.
- Principal's Report – Brian Shimon
  - Brian expects close to 300 students next year.
  - Accreditation went very well – no recommendations.
  - School Improvement Plan: New goals are completely at our discretion.
  - Developing "Annual Report" for marketing
  - Bought new English & Language Arts (ELA) curriculum – 6 year package – \$90,000

- ELA is reading + writing + vocab + phonics + grammar
- The publisher committed to supporting the curriculum
- K5-5 is from Benchmark Workshop, located in New Berlin
- 6-8 is from Houghton Mifflin – the next edition of *Journeys*
- MAPS testing is coming up soon again
- Adjourned 8:17 pm