

**St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
Parish Council Meeting Agenda
May 2, 2023**

Approved August 1, 2023

7 p.m. Parish Center (In Person)

Opening Prayer

- Prayer of Stewardship

Roll Call

- Those present: Noah DeMoss, Janine Bercovitz, Charles Williams, Fr. Varghese, Rocky Marsh, Kate Erdel, Grace DeMoss, Fred Chandler, Matt Hayes
- Guest: Jeff Stickel
- Those Absent: Geoff Ziegler, Patrick Price, Tim Nation, Jose Samperio, Karla Hudecek

Agenda Check

Report on Chatard High School: Jeff Stickel, Bishop Chatard Board of Regents

- See attached document at end of minutes for specific details
- Bishop Chatard Center for the Arts is hoping to break ground next year
- Giving expectations for STA Chatard families
 - Tuition at Chatard is around \$14,000 (parishioner discount to around \$11,000)
 - North Deanery likely sets the “ask” (around \$1200) because it’s consistent with all Catholic high school in the archdiocese.
 - Specifics will be sent to Matt Hayes in the future

Approval of minutes from March 7, 2023 meeting (1 document)

- Motion to approve the minutes: Fred Chandler
- Accepted by consensus

Comments from pastor and/or pastoral associate

- Fr. Varghese hires, but he creates a search committee
 - Uses the appropriate commission members for the hiring of the staff member (for example, the finance committee members would be available for use of the accountant; a school commission member for a teacher/principal)
- Bethany Borland will be our new principal!
- Conversation about the process of principal hiring
- **Ministry Fair–Objective 3.4–Geoff Ziegler and Charles Williams will need to orchestrate with Fr. Varghese**
 - Good lead time will be needed to pull this off
 - Maybe as school starts back up would be a good option for the ministry fair
- National Eucharistic Congress (at the Parish level)
 - Jay (Bible study leader) is willing to lead some Bible studies on the Eucharist
- Noah, Chris Durnil, and Fr. Varghese will be discussing the expansion plan for the building project tomorrow, May 3.

Update on STA Plan Goals - with reference to Objectives (1 document)

Spiritual Growth: Patrick Price

- Not present

Stewardship: Geoff Ziegler

- Not present

Community Engagement: Charles Williams

STA School: Kate Erdel

- We have a goal of finding a new assistant principal
- We need to figure out what the approach is to how tuition is figured
 - **Let's add this to the plan for the parish**
 - Getting Parish Council, Finance, and School Commissions all together no later than early Fall to discuss some of the school/parish issues, the financial issues, define the processes, etc.
 - Mary Catharine Grau will reach out to Noah and Matt to get this ball rolling
- See attached

Dialogue, Truth, Faith: Grace DeMoss

Buildings and Grounds: Chris Durnil

- Not present

Finance Committee: Noah DeMoss: (2 documents)

I. Financial Review

- See attached

II. FY 2023-24 Budget Overview

- See attached

III. School Family Parish Involvement

- Should be discussed at the extended meeting between school/parish/finance commissions
- How do we get school families more involved in parish-specific events? How do we get the parish to support (financially, too) the school?
- Question to consider: What are the implications of St. Thomas being a parish with a school? Implications for school families? Implications for parishioners?

Review of PC open seats beginning July 1

- There are none

Other Pillar Reports and Additional Items of Interest

- Fred: June 11 Corpus Christi procession
- Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024
 - Who would like to go?
 - Who will be able to go?
 - Financial aspect
- See attached

Ending Prayer

Future meetings 7-8:30 pm typically on the first Tuesday of the month, every other month.

August 1; October 3; December 5; February 6; April 2; June 4

PARISH BUDGET FY 2023/2024 SUMMARY EXPLANATION

REVENUES

Sunday Collections – no change from current year budget

Donation & Contributions / Other Income – increase from FY 22/23 budget due to contributions made to Parish General Operations fund, stole fees, and at least 100 families reimbursing parish for criterion subscriptions

Sacramental/FF & VBS fees - increase due to increase in parishioners participation & 16% fee increase

Fundraising – increase from current budget due to allocated funds from fall 2022 gala, request of \$20,000 from Sausage Fest for capital repairs, & possible fundraiser activities that promote fellowship

EXPENSES

Salaries/Benefits – 5% staff wage increase and availability of work hours; pastoral salary / stipends as given by Archdiocese; 8% health insurance cost

Assessments – 5% decrease (clergy health increase cost; AD assess, HS investment)

Administrative – 11% decrease due to decrease in general office supplies, renewed copier lease & 3yr audit conducted FY 22/23

Other Expenses - \$1,000 increase for Parish Wide Events

Utility Expense – 19% increase due to 2022/23 under-budget electricity & adjustment to school budget

Property & Facility Expense – less than 1% increase

Spiritual Life - \$1,000 increase to music depart

Program/Instructional Fees & Butler Ministry – same as current year budget

Parish Council Report: April 30, 2023

- Fiscal year 2022-23 giving is 8.9% lower than prior fiscal year-to-date – this covers July through March 2023.
- Finance committee moved that Father should speak to congregation about recommitment to financial support of the parish.
- **Finance committee requests parish council discussion of how to proceed on school family involvement in non-school activities and financial support.**

STA Finance Committee Minutes, April 18, 2023

Financial Statements Update

- Collections were down 11% through February, but 12% through March. - Summary of financial activity on following page.
 - New principal accepted offer at a slightly higher pay rate than originally budgeted – Father supported decision led by Noah DeMoss, Matt Hayes, and Kate Erdel.
- Discussion regarding clarification on messaging to school families surrounding financial commitment to Sunday collections.
- School Commission noted potential surplus in current fiscal year relating to 15 new students, requested further discussion on potentially funding items excluded from final 2023-24 school budget.

Parish Budgeting Discussion

- Proposed no change to budgeted collections.
- Proposed intentional follow-up with families on Criterion fee collections. - Proposed \$7,500 from additional fundraiser, such as Ground Hog Day.
- Proposed 5% raise for staff and additional 2.5 hours for part-time parish accountant. St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and School, Indianapolis

Summary of Financial Activity for Fiscal Year to Date: July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Revenues – to nearest thousand YTD Over/(Under) Budget Sunday Collections 510,000
(73,000) Tuition & Fees 1,248,000 248,000 Other Revenue 123,000 (56,000) Total Revenue
\$1,881,000 \$119,000

Expenses – to nearest thousand YTD (Over)/Under Budget Salaries and Benefits

(1,032,000) 164,000 Archdiocese Assessments (149,000) -

Spiritual Life & Programming (110,000) 49,000 Property, Facility, Utilities (167,000)

(7,000) Other Expenses (128,000) (43,000) Total Expenses \$(1,605,000) 163,000

Net Income: \$276,000 \$282,000

Bank Balance (to nearest thousand):

Fifth Third Bank \$796,000

Restricted Funds Balances:

Haiti \$17,000

Auction/Gala \$77,000

Energy Improvements \$25,000

Capital Campaign \$97,000

STA Home & School \$75,000

Various Auxiliaries (reporting to FC) \$267,000

Other Funds \$238,000

From: Geoff Ziegler

STA PC Plan Goals - Stewardship

- ✓ A preliminary list of ministries to start with was previously identified. Initial efforts are underway to capture the necessary information from these ministries for "Ministry of the Month" communications in the e-newsletter, bulletin and on the narthex monitor.

Stewardship Committee update

- ✓ Working with Fr. V, Noah and Matt to ensure alignment and assist where necessary with the upcoming "Red Envelope" appeal leading up to Pentecost.
- ✓ (Action item from March PC meeting) - Confirmed May 21, 10:30am Mass for formal acknowledgement of Sausage King transfer from Brandon Thomas to Chris Durnil. ✓ Welcoming Committee notes
 - Welcome Mass/Dinner held weekend of 4/22+23
 - Working with/communicating with Catholic Allies to ensure consistent welcoming message from STA.
 - Working to identify ways to engage those who left STA as to why.

From Kate Erdel

Ensure School Operations a) deliver a high-quality education for our STA community and b) are consistent with our Catholic Faith

Why Statement: A parish school is an effective ministry for the faith-full development of children/youth and families.

2023-23 Objectives

- 4.1 Achieve 200 attendance in the 2023-24 school year. DONE!
- 4.2 Finalize building plan and begin discussion on a new pre-school. IN PROCESS
- 4.3 Update the religion curriculum to be more in line with other archdiocesan schools. IN PROCESS
- 4.4 Engage with School Commission to create a robust Principal succession plan. DONE.

From Noah DeMoss

In terms of the master plan, the finance committee has taken the following steps: • Recruiting time and talent by working to seat new finance committee members for the upcoming fiscal year (Stewardship).

- Recruiting treasure by working with Father to request a renewed commitment by parishioner members to giving to Sunday collections (Stewardship).
- Partnering with School Commission to fund programming to assist in recruiting new students (School).
- Partnering with School Commission to assist in hiring a new principal (School). From Chris

Durnil

Specifically related to 4.2. I am not ready to provide an update until the New Foundations Project group has an alignment meeting with Father, you and Noah. We must manage the process very carefully as we navigate the very prescriptive requirements of the Archdiocese and I don't want to create undue "noise" around what people may read into a report update.