**Feb. 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes. St. Michael School - Home and School**

Call to Order 6:02 Ryan Wernette

We are committed to providing students with an exemplary education centered on traditional Catholic values, inspiring them to walk with God, learn, grow and serve.

Prayer led by Mike Pigorsh, Parish Finance Chair.

Parents present in-person: Dee Powell, Tara Lackey, Jessica Scism, Kolina Mako, Kayla Stickler, Deanna Riggleman.

H&S Officers present: Ryan Wernette, Jillian Charron, Jesse Lacke and Casey Carr.

St Michael School staff present: Mrs. Gostomski – Principal.

Financial Review by Jessica Scism, St Michael Parish Bookkeeper (Email: [parishbookkeeper@stmikes.us](mailto:parishbookkeeper@stmikes.us)) and Mike Pigorsh – Parish Finance Chair

**(SEE THE PRESENTATION FOR DETAILS – ATTACHED TO THE MEETING MINUTES EMAIL or email a H&S officer.) We are grateful for the time Jessica and Mike put into giving this presentation to us.**

The School Foundation gives to the school each year, based on 16 rolling quarters. It is built up to over 2 million now. The school is the sole recipient.

A parish is required by the GR Diocese to give some offertory money to Catholic Schools. St. Michael Parish has a school, so it isn’t under the same giving rules as a parish without an associated school.

The St. Michael Parish paid less in 2023 to the school because of State of MI Grants., The % of offertory in 2023 was -23% in 2022 it was -36% in 2021 it was – 38%. The six-year average was - 31.1%. **(SEE PRESENTATION)**

The school does not have its own bank account. There is one for the entire enterprise. There are sub accounts, like one for school specific costs or funerals etc.

Costs grow each year, for example: Utilities, Labor.

Preschool student numbers are very high. K-6 is stagnant. Families tend to come for Preschool then leave. Right now 14 preschoolers are committed, last year there were 8 students committed at this time. There are some families undecided, Mrs. G is hopeful we have more commit.

The Capital Campaign has paid for a new boiler at school, septic at the church and replacing rectory windows. It is at $900,000 –this is a vote of confidence in approval per Mike.

Mass attendance does peak in July. **Graph is in Presentation.** There has been a nice Monthly average increase as we recover. However, we have an aging parish demographic. The 20 % highest donors (58% of the annual offertory total) are Median age, 77. Average age, 75. The younger generations ex. 1980 – 2010 D.O.B are not registered parishioners. The older age registered parishioners are significantly greater in number. The demographics are changing and this is an opportunity for action.

Is this older generation generous giving common, historically? Perhaps but there is a gap that still exists.

H&S Goal – We are unique. Historically H&S paid for uniforms, athletic department. Parish used to run the Auction, it paid for a lot.

St. Michaels shocked the GR Diocese for how our H&S raises money. The parish decided to continue to increase the fundraising goal for H&S.

The parish agreed on a stretch goal with Jerry Ward to go up to $140,000. Overall costs increase 5-6% so they figured a 4% increase for that H&S fundraising goal. Also, there were a lot of unknowns in leadership when this increase was created. Jessica is concerned that fundraising expectations are high. Ryan suggested they had to raise that fundraising goal to meet the budget.

Parents are asking HOW this will keep increasing - what exactly is this equation? St. Michaels is unique. We have very low tuition vs. other parish-schools. St. Michaels H&S raises much more vs. other Catholic schools but we also have much lower tuition.

Moving forward, H&S members are looking for a projection about how much our fundraising goal is going to increase. Jessica suggested we keep these numbers in front of people. Parents are saying that they greatly dislike volunteering and would rather pay more for tuition.

What is the goal for the fish fry income? We want to make $8,000. We did save money on fish this year.

Concerns about food waste. Jillian has let us know that they are thawing less fish, we will have much less food waste.

Volleyball net – we still have no idea how to buy one. We aren’t sure if Chippewa Hills can give us their net or not. We as parents are struggling to figure out how we spend the money we raise. We do have some money leftover and we decided to buy the Elephant Ear dough roller, playground things etc. We have about $2000 left to spend. All spending must be approved by Father Tom.

Should we get to know parent’s businesses/professional talents to donate services or supplies? Could we reduce the costs of the shirt sale with a St. Michael School parent’s company – for example. We would like to poll parents for their skills. Multiple people agree we should tap into parent’s skills to more appropriately donate parent’s time.

We like the idea (Jesse and Jessica) to show the parents what H&S is. Maybe a BBQ or use the Prom Night to make it a fun party for parents.

The daddy daughter dance was a lot of fun and word is that it was a huge success. Special thanks to Kayla Stickler (pre-school parent).

Parent’s night out is Saturday, Feb 17th. 4 to 9 years old. Please take advantage of it. Youth Group is running it.

$109,000 our current H&S Income.

There are depreciation questions. Anything over the $10,000 mark we now plan on depreciation. There are depreciation guidelines being drawn up right now.

We are looking at higher tuition and technology costs. Mrs. G. is pushing to relieve parents of so much volunteer burden. Parents should be thinking about tuition going up and express their opinions on this matter.

Bourbon Raffle tickets can be sold online. The purchaser can Venmo the ticket seller money.

Income Blanket Fundraiser $1100

Income Dinner on the Farm $2500

Income Pop Bottles $2300.

More H&S income details can be provided by Jessica Scism. Email: parishbookkeeper@stmikes.us

K of C and NCCW are volunteering at this year’s Fish Fry. Mrs. G suggests we give it to K of C to run entirely next year. She suggests we do not ask new preschooler parents to volunteer at Wheatland. She thinks Wheatland and Auction should be our only set fundraisers to raise our H&S annual funds. Then the add-ons will just be extra income. She also reminded us to have a positive attitude in public, to encourage enrollment. Share our shine and really celebrate St. Michaels. Come to Mrs. G with frustrations.

Preschool enrollment is in April. We need to meet next month about the tuition ideas.

Jesse Lackey (Treasurer) budget -There are a lot of grants out there. They are very specific about initiatives. He is trying to find grants for us. Hard to match their political agendas. Initiatives: garden and playground Mrs. G thinks – she has a fit for these in the science curriculum. He could use some help going through the grants available.

Jill took care of organizing so much in the kitchen this week!! She has put in many hours of prep for a successful fish fry.

Mrs. G. (the school) will be renting a billboard, the school has GREATLY increased our internet presence. Student population is 33% Catholics. Tara Lackey’s question about does the public know this school is open to non-Catholic students?

The students are planning the end-of year trip. A color run to fundraise is an idea.

Mrs. G is finding money from the public schools to pay specials teachers. The Governors’ budget is taking away the safety money, the lunch money, some reimbursement items, incentives for teachers – (now only for public school employees.) March 19th, petitioning the governor to include the non-public schools. Please consider going.

Meeting Adjourned by Ryan Wernette, 7:59pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Casey Carr, H&S Secretary