

STATE OF THE SCHOOL MINUTES 10/12/16

1. Current enrollment: Pre-K: 61 K-8: 217 Total: 278 17 new families joined our school
2. Very strong team of teachers, faculty and staff
3. Successful Meet the Teachers Night
4. Questions and answers:

Q: Why was there a change in the band program? Benefit to SME?

A: felt that the band program should be handled in house as it has been done in the past. Paul Effman was brought in previously because the music teacher who was doing band left for another position. Ms. Stringer is a very capable, talented band/music teacher. Keeping the band in-house allows us more flexibility in scheduling and use of the band in different events. It is also more affordable. Lessons can be given before, during and after school.

Q: Why has the size of some classes grown?

A: many children perform better in a class with a diverse set of students. All of the classes are manageable and most are around 20 students. We have students that can perform and function quite well in these size classes. One of most grade levels also allows us to keep tuition costs lower. In addition, the number of classes and teachers needs to be determined in June. Due to many late registrations, some of the classes grew after the decisions had been made.

Q: How are we increasing drug awareness among our students?

A: Red Ribbon Week is the week of 10/24. This is a drug and alcohol prevention week. We have 2 police officers already scheduled to speak to the students regarding the dangers of drugs and bullying. We also have some activities planned for the week.

Q: What happened to the money raised for the playground?

A: no money was ever raised for the playground. There was supposed to be a grant for the playground but it fell through.

Q: How do the wages of our teachers compare to public schools and other private schools?

A: We are considerably less than public schools. Example: 1 teacher with 14 years experience in a public setting would be making around \$80,000. In private, the salary was \$26,000. We sit in the middle of salary ranges with the other Catholic schools.

Q: Can events be posted on the monthly calendar and can the lunch calendar be larger?

A: Events are now posted monthly and the lunch calendar will be enlarged.

Q: Are the computers working in the technology lab? Age of the computers?

A: All computers are working. We received them in the summer of 2014. We can always use donations of computers.

Q: How close are we to raising enough money for the kiln?

A: We were off by about \$200.00. We received a donation of \$200.00. We are in the process of looking for a kiln.

Q: Can the mandatory service hours be revisited?

A: I can bring up this concern to the tuition committee. Please keep in mind, though, that service hours and fundraising help to keep tuition down.

Q: What does the budget look like?

A: A final version of the budget needs to be reviewed by the finance committee. After this review, the budget will be released and printed in both the bulletin and the New Notes.

Q: Why did we lose so many students?

A: We actually only lost about 30 students. We did gain 17 new families. We are at where we were 3 years ago prior to the closing of several elementary schools.

Q: Did the food trucks that we had rent the space from us?

A: No. This was not a fundraiser. We had the trucks come as a courtesy and something fun for our families.