

All Saints Catholic Academy April 22, 2020 School Board Meeting Minutes

School Board Members Present: Christi Kluzak, Katie Coglianese, Anne Marie Cronin, David Dieter, Gina Gilmore, Marlon Lutfiyya, Matt Smilak, Megan Thies

Ex-Officio
Members Present:

Melissa Santos, Chris Johanneson

Others Present:

Patty Bajek, Diane Huber

Meeting Purpose:

The school board called this impromptu meeting to discuss logistics related to the end of the school year.

Agenda Items

- End Date for School Year
 - Mrs. Santos proposed May 29, 2020 as the last day of remote learning at ASCA for the 2019-2020 school year. The school board agreed with that date.
 - For kindergarten and eighth grade students, the school year will end a week earlier, as has been custom, on May 22.
 - Teachers will have an opportunity to follow up on incomplete assignments and submit grades the first week of June.
- Financial Updates
 - Payment Protection Program
 - The school's application for a loan under the Payment Protection Program was approved, for approximately \$408,000. That amount will cover multiple weeks of salary and benefits for ASCA staff.
 - Considering the increased interest in ASCA's preschool program, the school may need additional staff support.
 - As a PPP loan recipient, the school must meet certain auditing and reporting obligations. For the loan to be forgivable, ASCA must also satisfy certain other requirements. The school will work with the diocesan finance office to ensure that it meets its obligations.
 - Tuition Reimbursement Request Issues
 - ASCA is following Bishop Pates' recent recommendation that schools address any requests for reimbursement flexibly and compassionately.
 - Where the requests are reasonable, ASCA has worked with individuals to find mutually agreeable solutions.
- Grading During E-Learning
 - ASCA parents have been supportive of the proposal to move to an A/B/Incomplete (zero) grading model for the fourth quarter.
 - Teachers have had different preferences. Some favor a pass/fail system.
 Diocesan leadership has favored the traditional grading system.
 - The school board believes that the A/B/Incomplete model, a hybrid system, is the best solution because: a pass/fail system would not adequately reward or incentive students whose effort, diligence and work product merit special consideration; and a full-scale grading system might unfairly penalize students

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who have unequal access to e-learning resources (a solid internet connection, adult guidance and supervision, etc.).

 The school will use the hybrid grading system for every assignment this quarter.

Graduation

- In line with Governor Pritzker's recent announcement that Illinois will continue
 its suspension of in-person instruction until the end of the academic year,
 Bishop Pates has mandated that schools operated by the diocese remain
 closed for the academic year too.
- Bishop Pates has also indicated that year-end celebrations should abide by social distancing guidelines.
- Given the directive, and the uncertainty about when social distancing guidelines will expire, an in-person graduation is not currently feasible; a graduation is a well-coordinated event that could not easily be postponed.
- Mrs. Santos proposed that the school plan a virtual graduation that celebrates individual members of the graduating class—with names, graduation pictures and potentially an online award ceremony.
- A virtual graduation still leaves open the possibility of an in-person cap-andgown ceremony later in the summer.

• Locker Clean Out/Medication Pickup

- The week of May 25 (which includes the last day of school, May 29) will be reserved for parents to come to the ASCA gym to pick up their childrens' books, bags and medication, and other locker content.
- The number of people who will be allowed to enter the building at any one time will be limited, to keep contact minimal.
- o Parents will not be allowed to bring their children.
- Teachers will not be present.

• Fr. Mark

 He has been reassigned but there is not a specific change date. It appears he will not be the ASCA school chaplain beyond the 2019-20 school year.

Teacher Appreciation

 In appreciation of the hard work of ASCA's teachers during the school year and especially during the crisis, school board members will send personal thank you notes to the teachers.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.