

St. Lawrence School Advisory Board Minutes
November 12, 2024

Present: Brenda Anderson, Barry Whipkey, Kelly Peters, Emily Bjordahl, Steve Hoffmann, Father Brian Eckrich, and Jackie Loeschke

Absent: Ted Hendricks

The opening prayer was recited and the meeting was called to order by Brenda Anderson.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from September 2024 by Jackie Loeschke and seconded by Barry Whipkey.

Principal's Report:

Staff attended Social Studies In-service in October to learn about the way the diocese plans to address the social studies curriculum. Mrs. Anderson wrote a piece for the newsletter reminding the role of parents in their child/children's faith and that they should be the first teachers.

St. Lawrence School is a member of the South Dakota Christian Schools Association. This association will be working with lobbyists to promote school choice and hopes to have a strong voice with legislature this spring. There are many avenues to promote choice of school including, open enrollment, SDPE, Educational Savings Accounts, Individual Tax Credit/Deductions, Tax-Credit ESA, and vouchers.

Greenery sales were down \$2454 this year for a total of \$23,440 in sales. Profit was \$4558.05 which was down \$1905.95. Pick up dates for greenery are November 21-22.

Grandparent's day was a success with each child having an adult attending. The early October date was well received, so will continue that for next year.

The Mystery Dinner Theater profited \$15,850 with 317 tickets sold. The baskets brought in \$3,470.

Expenses were as follows:

Speedway \$7492

Advanced Tech ?

Grant County Review \$216 so far

Sam's Club: prizes/watermelon expense

The book fair money was used to purchase new books for the library and classrooms. There is a push from the Diocese to use a new book fair vendor in 2025. Whimsey on Main will be considered.

Teachers have requested input for fall parties and costumes. Discussion was held and it was determined that the kids enjoy being able to wear their costumes, but ultimately it is the teacher's decisions on what works best for each of them.

The Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30 and 5:30.

St. Lawrence has been approved to participate in the Catholic United Financial raffle. The goal of money raised is \$15,000. Brenda is looking into if the school needs a permit in order to participate this year.

The theme for the Gala this year is “Enchanted Garden.” There is an option to change the venue to Speedway, so further discussion will be held among the committee. The gala will be held the last weekend in April.

The Endowment currently has approximately \$124,000 dollars with 2 \$50,000 pledges over 5 years.

OST numbers are down some from last year. Averages in the evenings are around the low 20’s in count. There have been very few kids attending the no school days. Discussion was held and decided that OST may not be open during no school days starting next school year.

Old Business:

Options were explored for gaga pit surface. The cost of Velcro square turf was going to cost around \$2500, so will wait until spring to make a decision of if a surface is needed.

Input was taken from the board following last meeting for suggestions for a parent/teacher organization and suggestions included Melissa Schmidt, Jenifer Krause, Erin Holscher, and Betsy Holscher. This school year will be used to establish a mission statement, plans, and goals with the goal of starting the PTO next school year. A meet and greet will be held after a plan is established for the PTO.

New Business:

There is no new business.

The next meeting is set for January 14th at 6 pm.

The closing prayer was said and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Peters