

BCA School Board Meeting 10/8/2025

**Opening Prayer:**

**Approval of last meetings minutes:**

**Reports:**

**State of the Parish:** The Parish is continuing to find new ways for families and their children to be engaged with the parish. The recent 11am Mass hospitality led by 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders has been a huge success and people are enjoying this. Father would like to make this a more regular thing, at least once a month. Father wants to add more of the traditions and customs of the faith at special Masses. For example, the Anointing of the Sick is this weekend and showing a special blessing for those who are sick. All Souls Day lands on a Sunday this year and he potentially wants to have a coffin in church to show the symbolism of this day. There is a group coming around 7<sup>th</sup> of November that focuses on praise music, engagement and adoration. This is no cost to the Parish, and the kids may enjoy this. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass lands on a Friday this year and wants to bring in more people to showcase this. Peter was at Rock the Block hosting a Bible / Catechism game on behalf of the Parish. The trivia game was a great success, and many kids played it and enjoyed it. Lori, Deacon Erik and Peter offered a faith program last night helping parents tackle questions on how to talk to kids about faith etc. Father is looking for a school board member to be on the finance council. Any member who is interested should advise him.

**Principles Reports:** Mrs. Tracy met with the contractors for the bump outs to reduce speeding and increase safety for students walking to school. Contractors were respectable and wanted to check in when drop off and pick up is to ensure students aren't impacted by the constructions. An email was sent out with the whole project in depth to parents recently. The school is still working on security assessments and quotes. This will be a long process to get quotes. They come during the busy time, not so busy time, night and day during school hours etc. They are doing a diligent walk around. What things are they looking at, building or staff training? What are they suggesting? Facility and staff training, drills, who is in the building ect. Those who have come to do quotes are impressed with the cameras. They have told the principles how to best adjust windows or doors and offer suggestions on past projects. There was an email sent to the facility and staff regarding the protocol for if ICE makes their presence. The Arch has provided procedures and teachers know what to do etc. Sara brought up the idea of establishing a security fund. Another school on the North Side has a fund and security staff on side. The cost is \$150 dollars per child and goes into a fund and they have parents that are police officer's volunteer. They would come in and be security for the day. Those that volunteer gets credit back to the tuition. Their jobs would include being crossing guard, security, answering the door etc. They would not be in uniform but rather a polo shirt or something more casual, but you would still know they

are police. Roughly 13 people rotate throughout the year. We will need to do an evaluation if we have enough police officers who would be able to support this. The school would need to establish a security fund and security fee for next year's tuition. The security build out could happen this year into 2026 once the school has a concrete quote. The board agreed that we need to be transparent with the parents on what will be raised and show them finance reports. Parents should be told where the money goes to consider how tuition has gone up and will continue to go up in years to come.

### **State of the School:**

**Marketing:** The board would like money to be spent like banners and lawn signs. CC provided a contact for banners, and we will most likely use her connection that is City of Chicago approved.

**Strategic Planning:** The Blue Ribbon has been dissolved by the President of the United States. We are working on ways to showcase our school's excellence. We want to improve students' exposure to technology. How to use the computer and typing. Parents want to know how much our students know and use computers daily. The board will look into devices such as Apple and Google. The board would like to implement a typing program for the little ones etc. The board will work on finding other academic awards like Golden Apple to showcase and highlight our school's success.

**Catholic Identity:** Matt Petrich has an idea he uses at Mt. Carmel for student engagement and involvement and will share next board meeting.

**HSA:** Rock the Block was a huge success thanks to all those who helped plan and were on their respectable committees. The event made a \$17K profit and this does not include the \$5K we raised from the squares game. Sponsorships were the highest this year and we had many returning sponsors as well. Family sponsorships raised \$23K. Volunteers showed up and we had a great turn out. The next event is the Halloween party. This will be a trunk or treat event. Food trucks, hayrides, dancing and a snack cart will be available. There are talks of a BCA Fathers club for dads to be involved in their own way. Eventually there might be a revamping of the Knights of Columbus group but the board agreed let's get a dads group underway first.

**Sports:** There will be a Baby Bandits event to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> in the school gymnasium following the 11am Mass. This is an opportunity for parents of children aged from a year and a half to three years old considering BCA as their future school to meet other parents and children. This event has been shared via social media, newsletters and will also be featured in the church bulletin. Bitty basketball starts this Saturday October 11th.

**Next meeting will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> 6pm in the teacher's lounge**