

SJNCS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 16, 2024
St. John Neumann Library
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order (4:00pm)

Attendance: Dr. Kelly Mechelke, Principal; Fr. Joe Reed, Pastor, Sabrina Talley, Academic Dean; Patrick Wade, Director of Development; Jenny Hay, Board Member; Taylor Locke, Board Member; Will Silverberg, Board Member; Hiram Morales, Board Chair; Alex LaFasto, Vice-Chair; Jessica Louthan, Board Member; Steve Eckstein, Faculty Representative; Jennifer Dzermejko, PTMO President; Stephanie Greiner, Director of Communication (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Mary Marlowe, Director of Admissions; Fr. Joe Reed, Pastor; Christine Roeck, Director of Account Services

II. Opening Prayer (4:00pm) Dr. Kelly Mechelke

III. Open Forum (4:03pm)

A. Board Chair Reviewed Rules for Open Forum

- Only persons who have previously signed up to present are allowed.
- Adults only.
- No video recording.
- The maximum time allowed is five minutes per presenter.
- Topics to be answered:
 - Briefly describe your topic.
 - List up to three (3) reasons why this is important.
 - Briefly describe what you propose should be done.
- For this board meeting only:
 - The Chairperson will verify that the three questions above have been answered since a form was not offered in advance to the presenters. The chairperson will ask the presenter a specific question if they have not been answered.
 - No additional questions or clarifications will be allowed by any member of the board or SJNCS staff.

B. Spectators

- Lisa Sinclair

C. Presenters (4:05pm)

- Sarah Toliver (5 minutes): Classroom Chromebooks
 - Mrs. Toliver has concerns about Middle school students having in-school Chromebook access without any parental oversight. The school utilizes GoGuardian to monitor students' computer usage and website browsing on the student's school accounts; however, passwords are not secure and internet restriction levels vary between students.
 - The student's web browsing history on the school network is inaccessible to parents. The school administration does not provide students and parents with a comprehensive overview of internet safety, requirements, and implementation.

- Teachers have the capability to see students' individual screens, but they are not monitoring all students' usage simultaneously. GoGuardian is an incredible tool, but it must be properly implemented to protect our students. Parents need information and accessibility to help protect their students.
- Teachers should reduce dependency upon Chromebooks during classroom instruction. The school should add more security to passwords and integrate parents into the oversight process. Additionally, we should ensure teachers, students, and parents are familiar with GoGuardian, internet safety, and SJNCS's technology policies.
- Mrs. Toliver requests that SJNCS make school day browsing history reviewable on the account at any time. Mrs. Toliver requests a Technology Administrator presentation to parents. She feels parents have a right to opt-out of Chromebook usage at school for their students and have access to students' browsing history. She asks that we review Tennessee law for internet safety for school
- Open forum Adjourned 4:07

IV. Discuss new agenda/flow

- We will add times to the agenda so we stay on track

V. Discuss / Approval Previous Meeting Minutes (4:15pm)

- **Call for Vote** by Chair to approve April Meeting Minutes
- Vote: Unanimous Aye

VI. Old Business (4:20pm)

- Update on Catholic Identity from Beau Broussard. (10 minutes)
 - Reviewed the form sent to Mr. Broussard and discussed how we will proceed when presenters do not comply with stated parameters. The SAB Chair will email presenters back to ask for edits.
 - Discussed Mr. Broussard's proposals.
 - We can recommend shelving challenged books to Fr. Joe.
 - All students are given the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on demand and taken as a class twice a year.
 - "Christian Doctrine" is the official title of the religion classes. We can change to Catechesis as Mr. Broussard requested, but that is a decision made by the Pastor.
 - The diocese sets our Art curriculum. As long as we meet the diocesan standards, the SAB does not want to (currently) dictate what classroom teachers teach.
 - A board member requested we ask for a list of Catholic artists taught in the art curriculum.
 - A board member stated that we must compromise and meet certain standards to be certified in the state, but we could still possibly add more Catholic art.
 - A board member reminded the SAB that everything we teach should be infused with faith all day long.
 - A board member stated that they wished parents were more informed of all the ways faith is taught during the school day.
 - A board member explained that diocesan standards can be found on the diocesan website. We will continue to spotlight faith in the newsletter.
 - It was discussed that parents who are more established at SJNCS trust faculty and do not fear what is being taught.
 - The request for Catholic book fairs is a decision that Fr. Joe must make
 - We will remind families that the SAB Meeting Minutes are the best place to send people for information about meetings.
 - Update on Pre-K Awning (5 minutes)

- We are waiting on Town of Farragut approval.

VII. New Business (4:35pm)

- New Books that have been requested to be reconsidered using the process as dictated by the Library Policy. (25 minutes)
 - *“Not the Worst Friend in the World”* has gone through the process and now goes to the next step - choosing a committee.
 - Nomination of School Advisory Board Member to lead Evaluation Committee (10 minutes) Jessica Louthan, Stephanie Greiner, Alex LaFasto.
 - Jessica will put together the report of everyone’s notes. Kelly will ask two more teachers to read the book, but if no one volunteers, we have two teachers who have already read it.
 - Jessica will contact Mallory to check on the status of the summer reading groups (to review books) and encourage her.
- Rules for Open Forum moving forward to ensure topics fall within School Advisory Board scope. (15 minutes)
 - We will work to redirect requests to the appropriate channels to ensure that the board only sees relevant info, maybe change to Google Forms and add “Please note only three points will be reviewed.”
 - We will state that presenters should describe what they propose to be considered relevant to your topic.
 - A reminder about the Bylaws - we are just a consultative body, recommendations are made to the pastor who makes the final decision.
 - There will be no questions after the presentation.
 - We could make a calendar of topics to encourage discussion/participation.
 - Follow-up email to presenters
 - Articulate their ideas/concerns to the parent as we understood them.
 - Communicate any follow-up actions the board agreed upon.
- Discuss today’s presenter topic (15 minutes)
 - The Technology Agreement for students is being reworked for next school year.
 - Teachers can see all computer screens from their computers, and the program does alert to certain keywords. When this occurs, Mr. Danatos receives the notification and alerts Dr. Mechelke.
 - Since the Chromebooks stay at school and do not go home, there is no need for evening alerts. This is also to prevent GoGuardian from accessing home computer information.
 - The expectation is that parents should monitor internet usage at home. Children can log in to their SJNCS account at home, so concerned parents can browse their history to see what they have been searching. Parents can and should ask their children for their password.
 - We will follow up to prepare step-by-step browsing history instructions for parents. We will also have an internet safety presentation at the beginning of the school year and determine ways to make passwords more secure.
 - A board member expressed that there is an assumption among parents that there is a dependency on Chromebooks in classroom instruction. Faculty Representative Steve Eckstein explained that there is much variation depending on the subject and teacher. Until the current school year, we did not have one-to-one Chromebook availability, so there is no dependency on the technology.
 - Some students do have more access than others; this is due to the consequences of inappropriate use of the Internet.

VIII. Closing Prayer (5:29pm)