



Thursday, April 18, 2013
State of the School Summary

Dear Families:

Thank you to all who attended our State of the School Meeting on March 21st. The meeting included a presentation of accomplishments for the current year and our finances and goals for the coming year. Our school has made great strides in its fifth year, in thanks to the dedication of our faculty, staff, parents, and community.

Introduction: School Board President (and parent) Mr. Lou Presenza welcomed everyone and asked the school board members to introduce themselves.

- Mr. John Bigley, community member and Chair of the Education Committee
- Mr. James Duffy, parishioner and Chair of the Facilities Committee
- Mr. Robert Fitzgerald, parent and member of the Facilities Committee
- Mrs. Alice Garbarino, parishioner and member of the Advancement Committee
- Ms. Judy McBride, community member and member of the Education Committee
- Mr. Brian Murtaugh, parent and Chair of the Advancement committee and member of the Facilities Committee
- Mrs. Rebecca Price, parishioner and alumna and member of the Finance Committee
- Mr. Lee Shields, parishioner and Chair of the Finance Committee

Board members unable to attend were:

- Mr. Paul Bakey, parent and member of the Finance Committee
- Mrs. Andrea Collazzo, community member and Chair of the Membership Committee and member of the Education Committee
- Mr. Paul Dersch, community member and member of the Advancement Committee
- Rev. Joseph Capella, Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

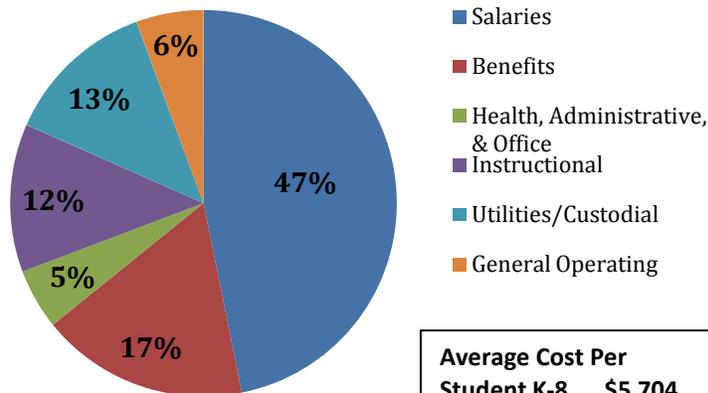
Lou spoke about the school and the role of all present in Catholic education, using the shamrock as an example. He related the story of St. Patrick's work to convert the Irish to Christianity and how he used the shamrock as a way to explain the concept to the Holy Trinity and three persons in one God. Likewise, our school and all Catholic schools have three parts: Enrollment, Annual Fund and Community involvement.

All three are needed to survive and one alone will not allow a school to succeed. For instance, tuition is projected to bring in \$1.4 million next year, but our budget is \$1.9 million, thus we need Annual Fund and other fundraisers to cover the \$500,000 shortfall and to do so we need the community to become involved. That is why we have bingo volunteers and the Annual Fund. He spoke of his personal involvement leading to the development of wonderful friendships.

Finance: Mrs. Becky Price reported the school was operating under budget as of the last review of financial statements dated December 31, 2012.

She presented an overview of the 2013-2014 budget projections. The budget for 2013-2014 is \$1.9M and very lean; there is no budget for capital expenditures or improvements to facilities. The projected number of enrolled students for Kindergarten to 8th grade students is 334.

2013-2014 Budgeted Expenses



Average Cost Per Student K-8 \$5,704

Salaries and Benefits make up 64% or \$1.2M of the budget and Instructional expenses (supplies and curriculum) 12%. The average cost per student is \$5,704.

Tuition and Fees generate 72% or \$1.4M of the revenue for 2013-2014. The average tuition per student is \$4,016 and the rates are determined by the Diocese. They determine a minimum and maximum tuition that can be charged. Tuition rates are set in order to meet operating costs while remaining competitive with the surrounding schools. Every student

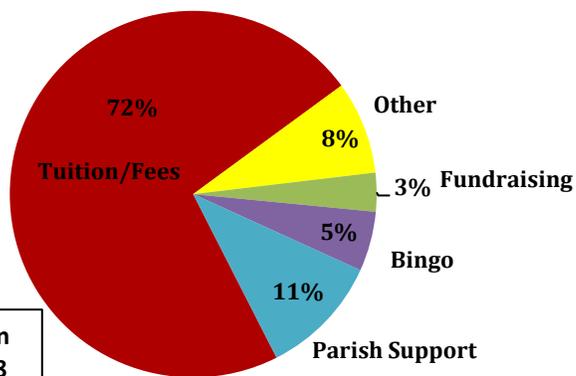
at JP II receives a scholarship of approximately \$1,666.

The additional revenue comes from Fundraising 3%, Bingo 5%, Other Income (Pre-K, Latchkey, and Special Ed) 8%, and Parish Support 11%.

It should be noted that Parish Support represents 13% of the Parish's ordinary income for the year. Should John Paul II operate over budget, the Parish would be required to make up any shortfall.

Facilities: Mr. Jim Duffy presented the Facilities committee's overview, focused on ensuring our school meets all applicable codes and provides a safe, healthy, and environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient facility. Aware of the financial sacrifices families make to send their children to the school, they seek projects that reduce energy consumption and make the savings available instead for educational purposes.

2013-2014 Budgeted Revenue



Average Tuition Per Student K-8 \$4,016

Some of the recent projects discussed at the recent State of the School meeting:

- We quickly responded to participate in a Diocesan program through the State of New Jersey and were one of four schools selected to replace the old inefficient lighting fixtures in the halls and classrooms with new, energy efficient fixtures – a grant project of \$80,000. The project improved lighting levels, reduced electrical costs and drawn many positive comments from visitors.
- Following an informal energy audit we reduced electrical and heating costs by weather-stripping around door openings and repairing and cleaning out the various air handling units within the older wings. We also corrected air flow problems within the HVAC cabinets in the new Cathy Hance wing and improved their operating efficiencies, accruing more energy savings and reducing noise levels, thereby improving the classroom learning environment.
- The committee identified another source of heat loss. Water accumulated under the concrete slab in the oldest wing, came through the slab into the hallways and classrooms, resulted in significant heat

lost through the floor and, more importantly, caused a slipping hazard. The rain gutters along the rear of the school had fallen off over time resulting in water falling directly onto the foundation and back under the building. Last summer, we funded a project to replace the rotted wood fascia and soffit and installed new, commercial-grade rain gutters and downspouts to fix the problem and reduce fuel costs.

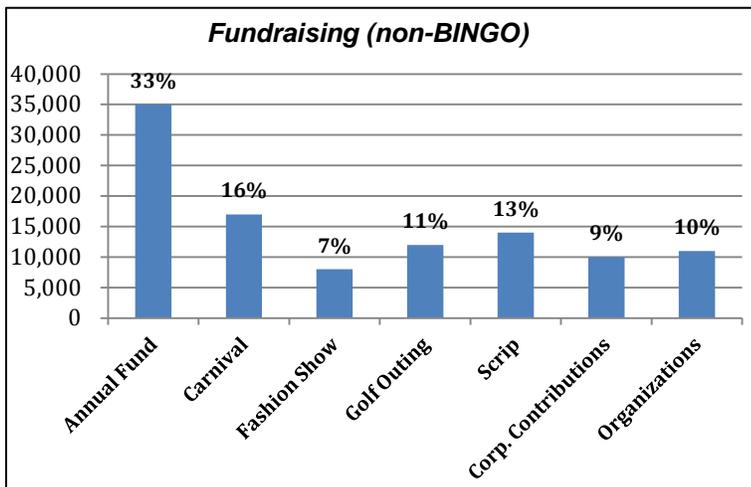
- Last summer, with the financial help of the K of C, we installed an exterior mounted, high voltage electric receptacle giving additional power needed during the carnival and other outdoor events. The gas-powered electrical generators used in the past while helpful added to both noise and air pollution.

Some facilities issues on the horizon:

- The Diocese of Camden is evaluating the potential for parishes (who have expressed an interest) in using Solar Energy to reduce their electrical bills. The Diocese has hired consultants to help with this effort and we have been selected as one of the parishes which will be evaluated. If eligible, there is a process in place to request proposals from a list of pre-approved contractors. There is potential to sell power back to the grid, thus effectively reducing our operating expenses. More to come!
- The striping on our parking lots is fading and cracks need to be filled. We will be receiving bids shortly for this effort and could, potentially, begin work this spring. It will definitely spruce up the look of the school and church.

Advancement: Mr. Brian Murtaugh introduced members of the Advancement Committee as well as chairs of the various fundraising committees. The two primary areas of focus for the Advancement Committee are Enrollment and Fundraising/Annual Fund.

The BINGO program contributes 5% of our overall projected revenue. Thanks to Donna Freiling for her tireless efforts to run Bingo and all our volunteers who help out. We ask each family to volunteer to work 5 bingos each school year as this is a huge part of our fundraising. Bingo funds come from parishioners and residents of the area, so it is a very valuable source of funds for our school.



Other school fundraisers include:

- The Carnival, with a great volunteer team, is always looking for more help. The carnival runs May 8th-11th at the school and volunteers are needed each night to help run games or sell food. Please volunteer one night and bring the family for some fund on other nights.
- Our annual Fashion Show and Basket Auction was recently held at Paris Caterers. Many thanks to Ann Buechele, Amy Valentin and the committee for hosting this successful event.
- Our Golf tournament – many

thanks to Grant Schuhl and his committee. Next year's event will be held at Valleybrook on Friday October 4, 2013.

- Our SCRIP program – you buy gift cards from us, save on your tuition and the school gets funds for each card bought. Thanks to Jil Lopez, Alice Matteo & Donna Freiling for running the program and thanks to everyone who buys and supports the SCRIP program.

- Corporate and Organizational contributions. If you work for a company with a matching gift program, please think of pursuing a matching donation or try to have your company sponsor one of our events.

While these fundraisers help with fundraising revenue, the largest piece of our fundraising projection comes from the Annual Fund. This year’s Annual Fund goals are \$50,000 raised and 100% participation from the Board, the Administration, Teachers and Aides and school parents. Please note that percent participation is just as important as the funds raised. A high percentage of participation shows a highly involved school community and can be used to help secure grants.

Currently we have raised over \$29,000 from over 125 donors with participation as follows

- 100% participation from the school board members
- 95% participation from the administration/teachers/aides
- 18% participation from school families.

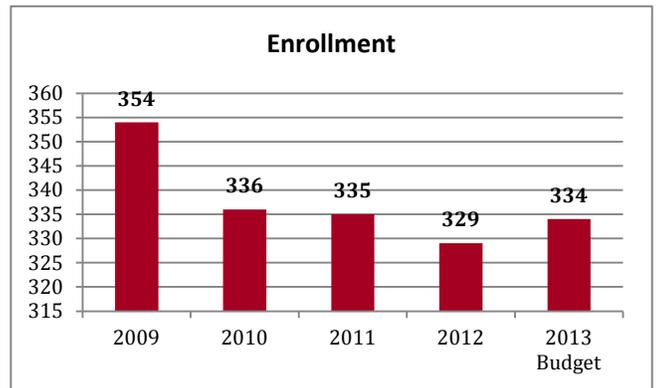
Why should you participate in the annual fund?

Your participation enables a faith-based education that allows our children to truly achieve academically and in life. School families are not asked to have our children peddle magazines, cookies or pizzas to friends and families. These types of fundraisers return less than 20 cents on every dollar raised back to the school. Whereas 100% of each dollar given to the annual fund directly benefits our school and our children.

How can you help meet JP2’s Annual Fund goals?

Please participate in the annual fund. Gifts of ALL denominations matter because they help meet our goal but also increase our school family participation. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, alumni and friends are part of our school community and are welcome to participate. Please consider asking for a small donation from these folks. All we’re asking is that you sign a pledge card and then make your donation before the end of the school year.

The other area the committee works on is Enrollment. Our enrollment has stabilized at approximately 330 for the past several years. For the 2013-14 school year, we currently have 300 students registered and paid. There are also an additional 17 students registered but not paid for total of 317 projected students.



If you have not registered, please do so! Many ask “Why do I need to register so early for next year?” Planning for next year is under way and enrolling now allows the administration to know how many books and supplies to order for next year so we start the year with the necessary items.

It allows the administration to determine necessary faculty staffing for each grade. Early registration helps with retention of our teachers and aides. Make a commitment to the Blessed John Paul II School experience that develops each student’s mind, body and spirit so they may contribute to a better society.

Referencing Lou’s Shamrock analogy, Brian also compared the process to a triangle. A triangle cannot stand unless all three of its legs are in place and connected. Our three legs are:

- 1) Enrollment – We need a level of enrollment that will sustain the school into the future. We believe that every student and every family is important to the long-term success of Blessed John Paul II School.
- 2) Fundraising – We believe in Catholic education. We need to work together to support our fundraisers to help make our school economically viable which will allow it to be the best school that it can be for our children.
- 3) Community – This community provides many opportunities to become involved and meet new people. We ask you to help spread the word. We're sure you have school friends who could not attend tonight. Please help get the word out about volunteerism, the annual fund and enrollment.

Principal's Report:

Highlights of John Paul II this year are:

- Addition of Ms. Bigos and Ms. Coleman
- Purchased 23 monitors and towers to replace existing computers in our lab
- New and improved Homework Hero on the school website for parents to access to all assignments. As school we moved from Churchwerks to Cornerstone Student Information System
- Implementation of an anti-bullying committee made up of staff and parents and chaired by Mrs. Linda Meara
- Daily morning broadcast and Friday afternoon rap-up over our in-house television station
- Weekly Mass with the Rosary on First Fridays

Student Achievements Awards

- Andrew Bank and Sean Polifrone received Camden Catholic scholarships
- Alexis Baskerville - First Place in Essay Writing Contest for Daughter's of the American Revolution Haddonfield Chapter
- Monica Mercado – First Place in the area Spelling Bee will compete at the county bee
- Knights of Columbus-Nativity Council Essay Winners were David Sandoval, John Napolitano, Madelyn Hamer and Meghan Bakey
- Students accepted into all the diocesan high schools, as well as, St. Joseph's Prep and we are confident they are well prepared for their high school careers
- Alumni accepted into honors and advanced placement classes in diocesan and prep high schools

Faculty

- Teachers and administration have participated in numerous workshops
- All workshops are grade level appropriate with funding from Title II Program
- I currently serve on Professional Learning Center Committee for the Diocese implementing plans in line with standards, Treasurer for ESPA, participant in 21st Century Learning—Technology Workshop—which I hope to be presenting to my colleagues in the diocese, and I attended the NCEA Convention over Easter Break and the Principal Academy at the Univ. of Notre Dame
- As we move into the next school year, all full-time faculty will be required to complete 20 hours of professional development each school year.
- Will implement the Teacher to Teacher Program in late Spring, faculty will meet from grade level to grade level to review students so all needs will be met in the upcoming year.

Co-curricular

- A variety of middle school electives added: finance, gardening, ceramics, technology, music, Spanish, community service, cooking, knitting, animal husbandry, psychology, thanks to teachers, parents, and grandparents volunteering their time. Mandatory electives include: Research Paper and Organizations Skills, because we recognize the benefits of these courses for high school. Ms. Higgins will use the \$10,000 grant she received to fund her Health Science elective.
- Band and piano recitals took place in the winter and will perform again this spring. Students, selected for honor bands: Bobby Fitzgerald, Bryce Youngberg, Nick Marcinko, Andrew Bank

Extra Curricular

- Athletics-thankful for all who volunteer to run this program
- Field Hockey was back
- Girls Volleyball
- Basketball All Stars: Patrick Bakey, Nick Catrino, Lorenzo Martinez, Michael O'Brien, Megan Shook and Celine Assi. Celine was selected for the Al Carino All Stars, which is very high honor for Varsity Players
- Cheerleading-competed against other squads and were recognized at Bishop Eustace
- Dodgeball grades 6-7-8
- Parent, Ms. Higgins organized the effort for the Junior Achievement program in grades K-5
- Assemblies held-Stratford Clean Communities, Officer Phil, Dental Health, Stratford Fire Department, Earth Day, Jump Rope for Heart, Cat-in-the-Hat, Catholic Schools week, CAP, DARE, and Red Ribbon Week
- After school clubs-We are thankful for all who volunteer to run these programs
 - Bridge Program- a peer support program This program encourages, promotes, and enriches positive life styles of adolescents. Students led discussions are designed to encourage participation, listening and support of all members. The program is overseen by trained counselors.
 - Yearbook Club
 - Living Stations presented by students on March 27th at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm

A special recognition was given to our Executive PTA members: Coryndi McFadden, Diane Lauricella, Gemma Espiritu. We also thanked Phil Servus for volunteering as Athletic Director and **Donna Freiling, Jil Lopez, Ann Buechele, Amy Valentin, Grant Schuhl, Brian Murtaugh**

Pastor's Video: Since Father Joe was unable to attend, he prerecorded a brief message for all the attendees.

Conclusion: Lou Presenza concluded the night by saying that the Jesuits, and Pope Francis is a Jesuit, have a motto called AMDG, or *Ad Majorum Dei Glorium*, To the Greater Glory of God. That is what the school is all about, what the teachers are all about, what the administration and board are all about and what we as parents are all about. We send our children here so that they have the guide of giving glory to God in their everyday lives, and our faculty and staff all preach this in their everyday lives.

Thank you for your faith, patience, and continued cooperation. I am happy to meet with you to discuss any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have in any area of our school.

Mrs. Helen Persing
Principal