

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chris Varady, President.

OPENING PRAYER: Jesus, our friend and our brother, please guide us with your wisdom and love today. Help us to do your will and to be open to hear your voice as we speak and listen to one another. Amen.

PRESIDENT REPORT- Chris Varady

- Welcome
- Thank you for your attendance tonight and for everyone who volunteered and attended events all year.
- Thank you to Susan Kasten and Ashley Lack for their service to the Board.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT- Joy Stanton

- No report.

SECRETARY REPORT- Ashley Lack

- Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2026 meeting
 - A motion was made by Susan Kasten and seconded by Joy Stanton to approve the Minutes as previously distributed.

TREASURER REPORT- Susan Kasten

- Checking Account Balance: \$55,528.61
- April Income: golf
- April Expenses: golf expenses, reimbursements for daddy/daughter dance and book fair

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT- Tenisha Phelps & Marli Nixon

- See the Facebook page
- Planning to promote test scores, including St. Ambrose students who were in the Marquette top 10% for the freshman admission placement test
- The Facebook page will continue to highlight registration videos throughout the summer

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT- Kylie Gregory

- Completed Activities
 - **Alton City-Wide Litter Clean Up**
 - Chair: Ashley Lack
 - Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026
 - **Basketball Raffle**
 - Chair: Matt Bechtold
 - Made \$1675 and gave \$1675 in cash prizes.

St. Ambrose Parents' Association
SAPA Meeting: May 6, 2026
Location: St. Ambrose Community Center

- **Father Daughter Event**
 - Chair: Megan Baiter
 - Date: April 18, 2026
- **Scholastic Book Fair**
 - Chair: Joy Stanton
 - Dates: May 1-May 5, 2026
 - Online sales available 4/30 - 5/13 (we earn 25% in scholastic dollars from online sales)
 - Thanks to all who helped and those who attended family night
 - Profit \$107
 - Last year sold \$4887, receiving \$2439 Scholastic dollars; this year sold \$6335. We have the option for a cash payout (25%) or Scholastic dollars (50%).
 - Suggestions were made for possible date changes next year to coincide with Grandparents' Day or the Spring Fine Arts Festival
- **Golf Tournament**
 - Chair: Katie Krueger
 - Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026
 - Booked next year
 - Profit \$47,656
 - Volunteers were lacking
 - Sue Stirman is going to reach out to the Women's Group at the Parish to recruit volunteers for events next year.
- Upcoming Events
 - **Applefest**
 - Chair: Lynne Adams
 - Date: September 18-20, 2026
 - No inflatables allowed on school properties due to diocesan insurance changes.
 - Please reach out to Lynne or Mike Adams if you have any other ideas on a fun activity for the kids.
 - Merchandise Fundraiser
 - Hosted by the Athletic Department
 - Date changes
 - Cash Bash
 - Sales October 1-December 3, 2026
 - Drawing December 5, 2026
 - Trivia Night
 - February 6, 2027

DEACON JAY'S REPORT- Jay Wackerly
Safe Environment Audit due by May 15th.

Tasks/Status update from IT meeting

1. Part received for the one camera that needs to be repaired.
2. Remote login (ticket - 899) – in work.
3. 13 Open IT tickets, 2 Closed.
4. Clearwave STATUS UPDATE from Eve Wagoner: Final Design is now complete, and your project is currently pending permit approval with your city/municipality, currently forecasted to be received by 5/29/26.
5. The cost to change the IP address for the gym heating and AC is \$1200. Decided to leave the IP address as is and physically isolate it. This means we will only be able to access the gym software from the IT room or in the teachers' lounge area.
6. Gym audio/video system documentation is completed. Need to post and share the documentation.
7. Athletic calendar is on the website.
<https://www.saintambroseparish.org/athletics-calendar>
8. Chromebook replacement Received a quote from Arch Tablet for 50 Chromebooks.
9. Ordering 131 Go Guardian Licenses.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Bob Baird

CALENDAR

5/7-5/9	Spring Musical, <i>Finding Nemo Jr.</i>
5/7	May Crowning, 9:15
5/8	School Social
5/13	Candle & Rose Mass, 8:15
5/15	Last Day for 8th grade (Run Down the Hill, 2:35)
5/17	Baccalaureate Mass 10:30, Graduation Luncheon, and 8th Grade Graduation 1:00
5/20	PreK Graduation, 6:00
5/21	Kindergarten Graduation, 6:00
5/22	Last Day of School, 11:00 Dismissal

- Thank You To All For Our Golf Tournament's Success : A big thank you to Katie Krueger and all of those that worked to make our golf tournament a huge success! Thank you to all the players, volunteers, and sponsors!

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

SAPA Meeting: May 6, 2026

Location: St. Ambrose Community Center

- **Book Fair A Success :** A big thank you to all everyone that made our Book Fair a success. Thank you to Joy Stanton for coordinating the efforts! Thank you also to all the volunteers that assisted!
- **Thank You SAPA For Teacher Appreciation Week :** A big thank you to SAPA for all of the treats and symbols of appreciation from our students and parents during Teacher Appreciation Week. A special thank you to Tenisha Phelps and Amanda Jockisch for organizing the efforts this week!
- **School Calendar 2026-2027 :** A draft of the 2026-2027 calendar was shared. After SAPA and the School Advisory Council have an opportunity for input it will be posted to the school website.
- **Service Hours :** Recently some parents have expressed concerns regarding service hours and the new \$100 buyout. The concerns suggested the \$100 buyout was too significant. SAPA and the School Advisory Council discussed this many times over the years and last year made the recommendation to make this our policy for the 25-26 school year. Many opportunities for service have been available throughout the year and are still available. We do not want anyone to say they did not have the opportunity to complete service and we want them to avoid a \$100 buyout. We do not want families' money for a buyout, we want everyone to be invested and contribute to the mission. Opportunities for service around the school building and campus are available and can be created this Summer. Families only need to reach out to the school office.
- **Religion Curriculum :** This past Fall, the Catholic Education Office for the Diocese of Springfield provided a list of 4 different curriculums recommended for Religious education classes. Our current curriculum was not one of the recommended four. The Catholic Education Office's research suggested the curriculum published by the Sophia Institute was by far the strongest. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, *Spirit of Truth*, published by the Sophia Institute will be used in our Religious education classes. This curriculum will be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Scripture Reflections :** After considering feedback from parents, we are adapting our Scripture reflections. Starting at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, students in only 5th and 8th grades will submit Scripture reflections. Those submissions will be a part of a student's Religion and Composition grades.
- **Lunch Changes :** Recently some parents have expressed concerns about some of the lunch options. Those of us that manage the lunches had already been considering significant changes. We are working on moving to a single caterer 4 days a week (M-TH) and keep Little Caesar's pizza on Fridays. The caterer would offer the more popular lunch items. The lunch calendar will be posted for the entire school year prior to the start of school.
- **Academics Good News :** Recently we received tremendous academic news. St. Ambrose had 4 of the top 10 students on the MCHS entrance exam. St. Ambrose also had great news regarding ACRE test scores. Students in the Diocese test in 5th and 8th grades each year. The combined scores of our two classes were the highest average of any school in the Diocese, meaning St. Ambrose was the highest performing school of the 36 elementary schools in the Diocese of Springfield.

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

SAPA Meeting: May 6, 2026

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- Fine Arts Festival : Feedback regarding this year's Fine Arts festival was very positive. This was the first year the event was during the school day in the afternoon. Next year we plan to start at 1:00, rather than 1:30. This will allow for more time to tour the display throughout the halls. Thank you Mrs. Preston and way to go to all of our students for their work this year!
- America's 250th Celebrations at St. Ambrose : The United States is celebrating a historic milestone this year with our 250th anniversary. Teachers have some activities planned for classes. We are considering school wide activities to celebrate the milestone and we welcome any suggestions.
- Safety and Security Updates
Committee Recommendations
School Resource Officer - St. Paul Highland

NEW BUSINESS

- Confirmation of Officers/Chairs for 2026-2027 School Year
 - President: Chris Varady
 - Vice President: Joy Stanton
 - Secretary: Mark Terry
 - Treasurer: **NEEDED**
 - Public Relations: Tenisha Phelps and Jenny Blevens
 - School Activities: Kylie Gregory
 - Hospitality: Marli Nixon and Megan Baiter
 - Liaison PK-1st: Megan Baiter and Jenny Blevens
 - Liaison 2nd-5th: Chris Varady
 - Liaison 6th-8th: Kylie Gregory
 - Uniform Resale: Natalie Gordon
 - Grandparents Day: Peggy Kory
 - Teacher Appreciation (Monthly): Tenisha Phelps and Amanda Jockisch
 - Dine to Donate Events: Natalie Gordon
 - Alton City Wide Litter Clean Up: Ashley Lack
 - Halloween Parade: **NEEDED**
 - Family Christmas/Toy Drive: Susan Kasten
 - Family Movie Night: Chris Varady
 - Christmas Feast: Sue Stirnaman
 - Mother/Son Event: Marli Nixon
 - Father/Daughter Event: Megan Baiter
 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace: Susan Kasten
 - Cardinals Calendars: Paige Dawdy
 - Ice Skating Event: co-chairs Chris Varady and Natalie Gordon
 - Trivia Night: Jason Lack
 - Family Bowling Day: Sue Stirnaman
 - Teacher Appreciation Week: Tenisha Phelps and Amanda Jockisch
 - Golf Tournament: Katie Kruger
 - Book Fair: Joy Stanton

St. Ambrose Parents' Association

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- Voting members present at tonight's meeting: Chris Varady, Joy Stanton, Susan Kasten, Ashley Lack, Marli Nixon, Tenisha Phelps, Kylie Gregory, Sue Stirnaman
- A vote was held and the voting members of the Board unanimously approved all of those nominated above for the listed officer and chair positions.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION- Open Forum

- A discussion was held regarding how fundraiser profits benefit the school and the parish. It was noted that there is an 80/20 split for SAPA fundraisers exceeding \$2000 profit. SAPA is only allowed to carry forward ~\$10,000 in their budget for the upcoming school year and the rest is given back to the school. The parish/school have one account/budget and the parish subsidizes the school every year. It costs >\$8,000 to educate each student and only a portion of that is from tuition. The parish subsidizes the rest. Therefore all parish/school fundraisers benefit the parish AND the school.
- A discussion was held regarding increasing the budget for teacher appreciation for next year.

CLOSING PRAYER: We give you thanks, Lord, for helping us to learn more and how to love one another. Please help us to always be instruments of your perfect peace in our school. Amen.

With no further questions/discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. by Chris Varady, President.

Next meeting: September 2, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Lack, Secretary

THANK YOU TO OUR SAINT SPONSORS!

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