St. Stanislaus School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Monday, August 4th 2025

The Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Jessica Schrimpf. Mgsr. Cox led an opening prayer.

Members present: Tina Forbis (Principal), Mgsr. Cox (Pastor) Jessica Schrimpf (President), Travis Bruemmer, Megan Luebbert, Susan Beck, Sarah Bruemmer, Jessica Nicolaescu, Andrea White

Absent Members: Jennifer Wolken

Other Council Members present: Brian Berhorst (Finance Council)

Also in attendance was superintendent of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Dr. Erin Vader, Dough Kliethermes owner of D & K Bus Service, as well as several parents: Adam and Leslie Buschjost, Aaron and Sarah Weeks, Kevin Wieberg, and Leann Lehmen.

A motion to approve minutes was made by Andrea White and seconded by Sarah Bruemmer.

Attendees introduced themselves at the start of the meeting.

Principal Report:

- Mrs. Forbis provided the following information regarding bus service for 2025-2026 school year
 - Blair Oaks has a new contract with Durham Bus Service and is no longer using D & K Bus service. D & K previously had a separate contract with St. Stanislaus to provide bus service for students. D & K previously charged \$35 per student monthly to use the bus.
 - A bus survey was sent out to determine the number of families interested in using bus service. 15 families/approx 20 students were interested in using bus service. 50% of the respondents requested using D & K for bus service the other 50% had no preference.
 - Over the summer Durham provided an estimate to St. Stanislaus that involved the following: St. Stanislaus School would be required to pay Durham a flat fee yearly (families would need to pay St. Stanislaus), required to sign a 5 year contract, and rates could increase each year. Based on 15 families participating this would cost \$150 per family but could increase if anyone decided to not participate this. This would also put St. Stanislaus at larger financial risk being responsible for the flat fee.

Discussion:

- Doug Kliethermes with D & K Bus service was then asked to provide information on his estimate of providing bus service for St. Stanislaus. Doug reported that these were estimates and he would need more solid numbers/addresses of students who would utilize the bus to provide more solid numbers. He quoted approx \$150-180 per month per family (for 15 families/20 students), families would pay D & K directly, and could assess contract each year. Doug expressed that D & K can help cover buses for field trips even if not contracted. Further review of the specific bus routes would need to occur but could consider having 1 bus and have some students ride on the "early" bus while students wait at school to then have the bus pick them up after the first route was complete. This would decrease the amount of time students would need to ride the bus as it could be over 1 hour if all students rode 1 bus.
- Parents present were then asked to provide feedback:
 - Parents voiced concerns regarding the short notice of determining that bus service would not be provided for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Some reported hardships for drop off/pick up times interfering with their work schedule.
 - Questions were brought up regarding if St. Stanislaus School tried to negotiate further with Durham Bus Service. Mrs. Forbis reported that so far they had not and they had seeked out a second quote from D & K Bus Service due to the large financial risk on the school with Durham requiring St. Stanislaus to play a flat fee.
 - Some parents brought up the idea that there could be bus stops to prevent extra stops or decrease the number of stops required and potentially decrease the cost/save time when further negotiating contracts.
 - Concerns were brought up regarding losing students if this service was fully discontinued.
 - Parents suggested that asking parents to pay for the year up front as being an option to help decrease financial risk on school.
 - Suggestion was made to use FACTS for payment of bus service.
- Council member feedback/further discussion:
 - Concerns were expressed with the larger financial risk using Durham and that the increase from \$35 a month to \$150 to be significant. Concerns regarding the quote being based on 15 families using the services, if any families decided not to participate this would impact all the other families.
 - Some members expressed wanting to use a local company such as D & K Bus Service.
 - Questions regarding after care and morning care hours if these were enough to accommodate work schedules. Mrs. Forbis indicated that she had discussed with several families of making some special accommodations for students to wait longer in car rider line to accommodate parents doing multiple pick ups.
 - Dr. Vader expressed that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has specific rules and regulations for parochial schools utilizing bus service.

Mrs. Forbis, Msgr. Cox, and Dr. Vader reported that they would further discuss contracts with Durham Bus Service and D & K Bus Service and will make a final decision on bus service for the 2025-2026 school year after receiving more information.

Next meeting will be on September 11, 2025 at 6:00

With no further business, Msgr. Cox lead the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Jessica Nicolaescu, Secretary