



SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

Parents' Association Meeting

September 14, 2026

Refectory Board Room

Meeting Minutes

School Administrators in attendance: Fr. D. Stuart Dunnan; David Hutchings; Margaret McGuigan; Kacey Michaelson

Parents in attendance: Johanna Mullendore, President; Gina Taffe, Vice President; Alicia Schwartzbeck, Treasurer; Jennifer Webster, Secretary; Aggie Cantave; Melissa Gue; Grethel Lehman; Jeremy McDonald; Miranda Marsh-McDonald; Alan Mullendore; Chris Taffe; Damaris Muñoz- Versino; Jess Murphy; Lori Pettit; Emily Walker

Meeting opened with a Prayer

Introduction by Father Dunnan: Opening school letter spelled everything out; extraordinary admissions; Local, regional, national, international- all excellent, everyone returning

Able to revive enrollment from Korea after decline

76 new students from 9 countries>\

Small 6th form= last of COVID damage. Lost 2 years in 5th and 6th grade, learned to cheat, forgot how to do homework

Students now in college finding it easy. "We do that on purpose, we want college to be easy."

"New dorm" (Dunning Hall) and Fab Lab (shop + IT: MIT)- certified now under construction

4 new faculty members settling in well.

New Head of School search- looking for priest, search committee on board, not looking for big change

Board of Trustees- alumni and past parents and a few friends of the school.

No current parents on the board- on purpose

Chris Taffe asked Father- any overlap planned for shadowing of new Head? Fr. Dunnan explained that purpose of 2nd year of notice is to allow for one year shadow for new hire. School hopes to hire by the end of the year. Looking for a sitting head.

Treasurer's Report- Alicia Schwartzbeck (see attached)

Still need P & L from concessions for this season

Upcoming Events;

***Fall Weekend-** finalizing schedule, lots of home athletic events, family dinner at TAC on Friday- Father wants kettle corn

Saturday- registration and breakfast, remarks and chapel, academic rotation, lunch and sports

Student art display, prayer book and hymnal sales

Sign Up for bookstore, concessions

Parents Mixer:

****snacks for concessions on Friday since dinner also going on**

***Aggie- Silent Auction-** need more donations, need more ticket sales

Phone A Thon- October- date still not set, but we will need volunteers- Annual Fund provides 10% of school's operating budget- gather in boardroom and call current parents

PSAT Ice Cream Day- October 8: 2nd form has modified class schedule, 3-5th have PSATs, 6th for college apps before lunch. **Serve between 2-2:30??** Eligibility for AP classes & National Merit Scholarships depends on scores

Do we want to sell shirts for concessions? Margaret said PA orders shirts and has own sales as fundraiser. We have a design, needs to be updated, Allen has offered his services to press year and teams onto shirts. Chris Taffe will help

Last Friday- proposal to change format of wrestling- day of duels- Sat, Jan 31

Need parking monitors

Cookie/Cocoa/Candy Canes- during holidays, Tuesday, December 16

Activity/Committee Leads:

SignUp Genius: Floyd Braylock kindly offered to take over

Mr. Hutchings: great start to year, new students so positive and excited to be here

Boys' dorms- totally full, girls' dorms have some spaces

So many day students staying for meals that SAGE was running out of food- asking them to sign in and pay for meals not associated with club practices

Day Student Meal Plan? All agree great idea

“Saints About Town” Field Trips- everyone excited 2nd- 5th

Fan Busses this coming weekend for girls soccer and V Football, The Saint James Springfield VA

Using Turner as weekend hub going well, working on getting TVs & ping pong

Phones have been a focus- lots taken from returning students as well as new.

Social institute: focuses on positive side of responsible technology, be your best self online, how to get out of a bad situation, build yourself up online because colleges will check out your pages.

Writing good prompts for AI

New and active clubs and leaders: Wellness Club (past outdoors and yoga), Chess Club joining online league to play against other boarding schools on east coast and also CA, Fishing Club (Dr Brauner)

Lots of students wanting to be involved in new things, make good things bigger and better

Old Business- covered above

New Business-

Add to SignUp Genius:

Nicole Colbert hcolbert74@yahoo.com & Cole Barnhart

Next meeting: January 11, 1 pm

Call to adjourn meeting at 2:13 by Alan Mullendore. Alicia Schwartzbeck seconded motion.