



# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



**Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, PA**

## IT'S A NEW YEAR! SOME UPDATES:

Last summer at our annual Board Retreat, we discussed the importance of increasing access to Board membership to involve more stakeholders in school governance. As a result we have decided to expand the size of the Board of Trustees by adding additional positions. If you know someone who would make a caring and engaged Board member, please nominate them and we will contact them! Names can be sent to [SJCABOT@stjoeacad.org](mailto:SJCABOT@stjoeacad.org). See pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter for some comments from our current members about why we love serving SJCA in this way. Self nominations/applications are also welcome!

We also want to give our heartfelt thanks to Bill Hanelly who recently retired from Board service. He faithfully and skillfully served as our Board Treasurer since 2015 and we are so grateful to him for his love of and caring for SJCA. Jerry Calistri assumed the Treasurer's role in January.

Finally, we had a good run but COVID finally snuck into school late last month. We greatly commend the staff and faculty for quickly pivoting to virtual for a week to contain further community spread and ensure the building received a thorough and deep cleaning! Please continue to follow all CDC guidelines such as masking, physical distancing and hand washing. Remember, virtual instruction remains available for any family that is more comfortable with that option.

### BOARD CALENDAR



#### January 2021

- Board Strategic Plan approved

#### February 2021

- Seeking nominations for the Board of Trustees. See website for info or email [SJCABOT@stjoeacad.org](mailto:SJCABOT@stjoeacad.org)
- Planning for virtual stakeholder meetings - Spring dates TBD.

#### March 2021

- March 1 deadline for nominations for new Board members
- March 15 deadline for letters of interest from prospective new Board members

#### April 2021

- Board of Trustees candidate Zoom interviews

### 2021-22 TUITION UPDATE

At the February Board meeting, the Board voted to keep the tuition rate for 2021-2022 the same as this year.

We recognize that this past year has been very difficult financially for many of our families so we will hold tuition steady for next year and continue to pour additional efforts into growing the EITC contributions to the school to make important scholarship dollars available to the families who need them.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

In December, the school received financial support from all Board members to fund a \$25,000 IT upgrade. In-Shore replaced core security and network infrastructure to enhance performance and ensure student web usage is appropriately filtered and monitored no matter how the school-issued laptop is connected to the Internet.

Saint Joe's is audited annually by an independent third party to ensure our financials are correct and in compliance with the IRS. These external audits have helped with business improvements, financial system development, better fiscal planning, and budgeting. The 2019-20 audit is complete and once again we received a clean audit with no corrective action required.

Finally, with the ongoing restrictions caused by COVID-19, our traditional fundraisers - most of which involve large gatherings - remain in question for this academic year. Frugality and an increase in donations and EITC participants will continue to be critically important to our ability to fund student scholarships for 2021-22. If you have not yet donated to the Annual Fund, please consider making a gift. No gift is too small and all are appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has already donated!

## SAINT JOE'S WEBSITE UPDATE

Have you been to the school website lately? Thanks to school parent volunteer Kathy Peters and staff members Susan Fructl-Robinson and Jennifer Mallet, many improvements have been made. You can find it at [stjoeacad.org](http://stjoeacad.org) so take a look and if you have other suggestions for things you'd like to see there, email your suggestions to [admin@stjoeacad.org](mailto:admin@stjoeacad.org)!

### A Prayer for this New Year for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy

*Please pray aloud with your family*

Almighty Father,

As we begin a new year, let us approach 2021 with joy and optimism. We really have so much to be grateful for and look forward to.

In this season of winter, keep our eyes fixed on you and our hearts open to your voice and awesome presence in our lives. Help each of us to hear how you are calling us to serve and contribute our gifts to community. Lift up those who are weary and fill them with your peace. Give hope those who are ill. Draw us ever closer to you in gratitude for all we have - including the blessing of this school - as we place our trust in you for a happy and healthy semester.

Amen.

# GET TO KNOW THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## **Robert Thomas, Board Chair; Investment Advisor**

My wife, Alice, and I sent all of our children to Catholic school because the daily lessons of the Catholic faith creates a strong foundation for a relationship with God and to create strong moral values. I love serving on the Board because I get to help the students, faculty, administration, coaches and staff at SJCA with the growth of the school. The school is an incredible blessing for our community and our parishes.



## **Robert Shearer, Board Vice Chair; Owner, SEKO MedTec Solutions, Sutherland Global Logistics and Shearer Logistics LLC**

Both of my children attended catholic schools from Pre-K through University. I sent my children to Catholic school because Deborah and I believe that we are called to educate the whole person, which includes faith and theology. We also believe that smaller school communities offer important benefits, such as: each student can participate in many extracurriculars, and each student in this community is known, challenged to take on leadership roles, and challenged to move out of their comfort zone. I love being on the Saint Joe's Board because we often can see the tangible results as our kids engage in the faith life of this community, grow in confidence and leadership ability and move on to be well-rounded citizens of high character and with a love of God, family, and community.



## **Jeffrey Dawson, Board Secretary; Research Engineer**

I sent my children to Catholic school because I knew first-hand the impact of an education that is centered on Christ, academically rigorous, and in an environment where students feel welcomed and valued can have during these critical years of their formation. I love serving on the board of trustees with a truly amazing group of women and men that bring unique talents to bear on our common cause to spread the Good News through Catholic education.



## **Jerry Calistri, Board Treasurer; President and CEO of Swift Kennedy & Associates**

I send my children to Catholic school, because having a faith-based education allows students the ability to pray, teaches them about serving others, and prepares them well academically for their next step in life. A Catholic education produces well-rounded students who can achieve many things in life and still understand core values. I enjoy being on the Saint Joe's Board because it allows me to work with the trustees, facility, students, and families, all of whom are focused on serving God, the community and each other.

*A person's most useful asset isn't a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others.*

## GET TO KNOW THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



### **Jennifer Cross; Leadership Consultant & Board Certified Coach**

Mike and I sent our boys to Catholic school for the rigorous academics and the opportunity for them to be known as individuals and seen for their own unique gifts and talents. I love serving on the Board because I love talking with our students about how Saint Joe's positively impacts them, and then working with my Board colleagues to ensure that we are doing everything we can to maintain and improve our school community for their benefit.



### **Dr. John Pagnotto; Physician**

A Catholic education provides a quality educational experience and an opportunity to develop strong leadership and moral qualities. I love serving on the Board because of the ability to interact with some of the finest staff, teachers, administrators and individuals that I have had the privilege of working with.



### **Joseph Rogacs; Retired**

I sent my children to Catholic school because we valued a solid, authentic Catholic education as well as the discipline and curriculum offered at OLV School. Catholic schools focus on excellence in education and values that are never taught at public schools. I love serving on the Board because I play a part in helping to mold our children into becoming good citizens, parents and future leaders.



### **Larry Thorwart; Retired, former VP Morgan Advanced Materials**

Our three sons completed 12 years of Catholic Education in St Marys. While our public school system was excellent just as it is in State College, we wanted them to gain a discipline in everything they took on as they matured from 1st through 12th grade - including their Faith. I love serving on the Board because I support Catholic Education and I truly love being involved with such a wonderful group of stewards of Faith.

### **TEACHER TREATS SIGN UP IS OPEN!**

Our SignUp Genius to show our gratitude to faculty and staff for all they are doing this year is now available. "Teacher Treats" are the last Friday of the month when school is in person. Sign up for the second half of the school year [here](#).

Thank you so much for your generosity toward our faculty and staff!

# VISION, MISSION AND BELIEFS

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## VISION

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy develops the next generation of Christian leaders who embody our four pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership, and service.

## MISSION

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy educates and prepares young women and men for lives of purpose in a global society through:

- a Catholic values-based environment that nurtures each individual's relationship with Jesus Christ
- a compelling and challenging curriculum focused on academic inquiry and critical thinking
- the identification, growth and development of personal leadership skills combined with the opportunity and courage to practice them
- engaged and generous community service and philanthropy
- a foundation of inherent caring, integrity and respect

## WE BELIEVE

- Christ is the reason for this school, therefore we are all called to be visible signs of the Gospel message in our daily lives
- a Catholic education teaches faith, scholarship, leadership, and service
- faith formation is a collaboration between school, family and community
- each person has dignity and worth
- instruction and assessment must provide for the diverse needs and abilities of all students
- in continuous improvement through research, ongoing education, and implementation of best practices