

**Screenshot of St. Joe – Zell Parish Council recommendation to keep school OPEN (12-17-2024)**



Zell Parish Council: John Boyd, Bill Kertz, Art Flieg, Adrian Naeger and Brandon Basler

December 17, 2024

Dear Archbishop Rozanski:

We are writing on behalf the Zell Parish regarding the ongoing discussions surrounding the future of our parish school. After careful deliberation and consideration, the Parish Council, along with many members of the broader parish community, strongly believes that closing the school would not be in the best interest of our parish or the families we serve.

Our parish school has a very long history (since the 1860's) and long been a beacon of faith, education, and community for several generations. It plays a vital role in the spiritual and academic formation of our children and continues to serve as an anchor for our parish life. We firmly believe it is part of our mission to educate the next generation of Catholics.

We have met with our Pastor Fr. Weber, and asked for more time before a final decision is made. He shared with us the decision to close the school has been requested and you have approved it. We are writing to respectfully request the reconsideration and reversal of that decision.

We overwhelmingly feel he is moving everything through at warp speed. He stated the reason for moving so quickly is the teachers need to know so they can find jobs, but contracts aren't usually issued until March. We don't understand the need for not taking time to figure out a way to keep the school open for next school year. We feel we are not being listened to and Fr. Weber has a personal agenda to close our school. We need someone to really care and want to listen. We are praying that is you.

We respectfully request that alternative solutions be explored that would allow the school to remain open. We are committed to working collaboratively with the Archdiocese, the school administration, and the broader community to explore all possible avenues for maintaining the school's operation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We remain hopeful that through continued dialogue and collaboration, we can find a way to preserve the invaluable ministry of St. Joseph Elementary – Zell.

Reply to: Dr. John Boyd,