

From:	Question:	Answer:
Jenn O'Herron	What are contingency funds meant to be used for, if not to balance the budget, or in the case of a difficult year?	From Mrs. Zirkle - By the direction of our diocese in Richmond - contingency funds may be used for unexpected major expenses, which would otherwise throw the school into the negative. So while it cannot be used to create a balanced budget, it can ensure that the school does not suffer loss when the income does not cover all expenses. With diocesan permission, the savings could be used for other purposes as well, if it is in the best interest of the school.
Mike Pendleton	What is the interest rate on the mortgage?	From Mrs. Zirkle - We have a SWAP loan, which means the interest is configured two different ways. The flat interest rate is .47% (rounded up). The SWAP is a floating interest rate around 4% give or take.
Jebet Dolly Kibogy	What is the schools official stand and criteria on testing for WIDA -World-Class Instructional and Assessment for an incoming student or a student that is already in the school? How do you select the student to test?	From Mr. Michael - Currently WIDA testing is administered to students who reside in Roanoke City and where a language other than English may be spoken at home. This information is taken from student enrollment information as provided by parents when registering at RCS. The purpose of the testing is to determine if a child is eligible to receive additional resources/accommodations for English Language development. Students are re-tested each year until they achieve a score to exit them from the program. This just another resource provided to our teachers to further individualize student instruction.
Jenn O'Herron	There was a time when Bingo brought in a lot of money for sports. Is that a possibility again?	From Mr. Patterson - Thank you for your question Mrs. O'Herron. The Celtic Athletic Booster Club (CABC) was a separate 501c3 from the Catholic Diocese of Richmond and Roanoke Catholic School. By order of Bishop DiLorenzo RCS was told to no longer accept funding from this group nor to encourage or support parent volunteer efforts in covering games/nights/shifts, etc. If there is an interest in starting another athletic fundraising initiative that is school and diocesan supported, families are encouraged to contact Mr. Patterson.
Jenn O'Herron	What is the status of the RCS advisory board? Who are the members and has the board been meeting during Covid? are the meetings open to friends and families of rcs to attend, either virtually or in person? and are the minutes made available to constituents who aren't able to attend?	From Mr. Patterson - Thank you for your question Mrs. O'Herron, I understand that this is an important question for you. The Roanoke Catholic Advisory School Board meets throughout the academic year and in the summer as needed. This advisory group serves to support the principal and his/her leadership team on matters impacting five key areas - as outlined in the by-laws and supported by our diocese. In their advisory capacity the following areas are within the domain for the RCS ASB and they are: Development, Finance, Strategic Planning, Facilities and Legislative. We have met virtually with the RCS ASB on two occasions this academic year. As an advisory group operating under the governance and direction of Bishop Knestout we follow the same protocols that are in place for all diocesan managed advisory groups. That is; should Bishop Knestout order that all advisory board meetings within the chancery, diocese, parishes and schools be open to the general public and that the minutes of these gatherings be made available, RCS will certainly comply with this directive. Until that time, the RCS ASB meetings will remain closed and only active members of the board and school leadership will be provided minutes of previous meetings. We have provided a complete listing of our active advisory school board members on our school website in the past and we will continue to do so.
Jenn O'Herron	And the status of the Home School Association too please? What is its mission and its purpose?	From Mr. Michael and Mr. Patterson - Due to the pandemic, there is no official HSA at this time simply due to the fact that we cannot host events, have volunteers/visitors in the building, etc. Once these restrictions are lifted we will once again seek to re-establish this program, which is vital to the support of our students and families. The overall mission of the HSA is to support/provide opportunities for students and parents to connect with one another and the greater school community fostering family life, promoting Catholic education, and supporting the school through specific fundraising events. Parents interested in joining the HSA or even serving as a leader for this group are encouraged to speak with Ms. Roy our school leadership team representative for this volunteer base. A set of diocesan approved by-laws provide governance and oversight information for the RCS HSA.
Jebet Dolly Kibogy	How many students from RCS have in the past few years or as many years as you have data for have been accepted to Ivy League Universities/Colleges?	From Ms. Roy - This information is not available. Instead of recording data regarding college acceptances, we have data that pertains to college matriculations.
Mike Pendleton	When we first signed up for RCS, one of the big selling points was how little they closed due to inclement weather. What is the policy for weather-related delays/closures?	From Mr. Michael and Mr. Patterson - A number of factors play into our decision when closing the school for weather-related reasons to include the general forecast and current conditions in our service area (roughly 2200 sq miles), availability of faculty/staff to be able to safely make it to campus or have enough substitutes able to provide for those who can't make it, the timeframe/availability for our snow removal/treatment company to clear parking lots/sidewalks to name a few. We also take into consideration what our local school districts are doing as they have many more resources at their disposal when making such crucial decisions. We typically solicit input on road conditions from our faculty and staff who live in all geographic regions of our school service area. While many often report the ability to safely navigate to school some are unable to do so. The safety of our students, staff and families are always the driving force that ultimately help us decide whether to open the campus for instruction or close it. We may explore digital learning days if we believe an absence from school could be prolonged due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. This decision will be staffed with our faculty and leadership team prior to being shared with parents and students. Our digital enhancements over the past several years will provide us some assistance with this mode of instruction.