

SAINT CECILIA PARISH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

November 2, 2004

Members Present: Monte Streit, Mark Gannon, Gary Gorman, Pat Halbur, Susan Vernon, and Todd Clancy (after 7:25 PM)

Members Excused: Gina Isebrands, Rev. Terry Rassmussen

Administrators Present: John Hayes, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio Member Excused: Kris Gross (Family School Association)

Vice-Chairperson Monte Streit, who led the group in prayer, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Gary moved to accept the minutes of the October 5 meeting as presented. Pat voiced a second to the motion, which carried.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John highlighted portions of his report. There was brief discussion of several items.

Principal: Duane highlighted portions of his reported and added that the fee for use of the Ames City Auditorium for the school Christmas program has been waived. There was discussion about recent thefts from the premises. Funds received from Target Corporation will be used to purchase books for the preschool program and for Character Counts.

Acceptance of Reports:

Finance Committee: Monte said that the group will consider investment choices for the approximately \$99,000 in the endowment fund. He placed an item in the bulletin to express appreciation to donors to the Tuition/Fee Assistance Fund.

Parish Council: Pat spoke of the visit to the Good Samaritan Center in Jewell and the Council's plans to move forward with seminars to enable parishioners to learn about financial planning, estate planning, and planned giving. Duane announced recent updates to the computer lab and his reasons for purchasing PCs versus laptop computers.

Family School Association: A report submitted by Kris Gross was accepted. There was some discussion of the admission criteria for preschool and kindergarten.

Long Range Planning: There was no report. The committee will meet November 11.

Preschool: A presentation to the Parish Council is planned for the November 16 meeting.

Unfinished Business:

SCRIP Money for Tuition Assistance: Because start-up funds for a preschool program were available from other sources, there was discussion of what to do with the SCRIP money. John and Duane were asked to submit suggestions and approximate costs of each for consideration at the January Board meeting.

Catechist Appreciation Dinner: Plans and preparations for the November 14 event are progressing.

New Business:

Archdiocesan Board of Education Video: The first three (of eleven) parts of the instructional video included information about Archdiocesan demography, mission statement, and leadership roles, Board member qualifications, tasks, and functions; and effective meetings.

Increased Enrollment: Duane circulated a list of 20 possible reasons for increases in enrollment at St. Cecilia School. Members were asked to choose the three that they would consider the most likely to account for the higher numbers.

Closing Thoughts: Mark expressed disappointment in learning that this Board has little input regarding the religious education of high school youth though charged through the Archdiocesan Board of Education with the education of parishioners "cradle to grave." Susan voiced similar sentiments. Members of the Board would like to have a better understanding of the parish organizational structure and how the needs of high school youth are being met.

Pat moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd gave a second to the motion, which carried. Following a prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson