

St. Cecilia Parish Board OF Education Meeting
February 2005

Members Present: Gina Isebrands, Pres., Monte Streit, VP, Susan Vernon, Todd Clancy, Gary Gorman, Mark Gannon, Pat Halbur

Member Excused:
Rev. Terry Rassmussen

Administrators Present:
John Hayes, DRE, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio Member Present:
Kris Gross, FSA

Others Present:
Dr. Craig Grandgenett, Joel Thilges, Amy Arndorfer-Frankl, Gloria Jones-Johnson, Lori Van Fleet

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Gina Isebrands. Susan led the group in prayer. Gina welcomed guests. Regarding the January minutes: in the motion regarding SCRIP, funds were approved to replace room dividers in classrooms; the report of the Finance committee should read that an additional \$3000 was required. The minutes were accepted with corrections. Gina called on Gloria Jones-Johnson who introduced herself as Chairperson and other guests present as members of a School Improvement Advisory Committee. Craig and Amy gave a presentation about their hopes and plans to work with others to establish an annual gala event (preferring to schedule the first in 2006) to raise funds for the endowment fund and the educational needs of St. Cecilia parishioners, with an emphasis on the school. They requested support and input from Board members and requested that the Board be responsible for decisions on expenditure of Gala profits. Pat moved to endorse the committee's efforts to have an annual appeal and Gala event. Todd voiced a second to the motion which carried without dissent. Proposals for use of Gala profits will be discussed at the March meeting.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John highlighted portions of his report and noted that attendance was good at Parent/Catechist conferences yesterday; another session is scheduled tomorrow. Program evaluations are being sought from parents. John noted that he and several parish staff members will attend a Generations of Faith workshop in West Des Moines February 17. The lease on a copier will expire in March; John intends to not renew the lease and share a copier with school personnel. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, following visits to catechetical sessions.

Principal: In addition to his report, Duane read a note from parishioner John Kleinschmidt who complimented students who were readers at the Catholic Schools Week liturgy. Several applications have been received for the preschool teacher position. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share the "Escape School" video safety program with students and families. Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Thursday, February 24. Preschool Round-up is scheduled for Thursday, March 3.

Special Reports:

Committee Reports:

FSA: Kris said that the Catholic Schools Week lasagna dinner was well attended. She also said that at the January FSA meeting some members indicated disappointment with some BOE choices for use of SCRIP funds. At the FSA meeting Susan explained the Board actions and at this meeting proposed that a letter containing the information be

sent to parents. She presented a draft for member consideration. Gary expressed appreciation to Kris for her efforts toward the success of the lasagna dinner. Members voiced intentions to better communicate with the FSA and to educate the entire parish to increase use of SCRIP by a wider range of people.

Parish Council: Pat highlighted portions of his notes from the January 24 meeting. John will address Council members at their March meeting regarding the Lifelong Event-centered Intergenerational Faith Formation format being considered for implementation.

Finance: There was no report.

Long Range Planning Committee: There was no report.

Preschool Committee: Duane will interview applicants for the teacher position on February 11. By March he hopes to hire someone and to make a decision on whether to hold one or two sessions per day.

School Budget: Following an Executive Session from 8:28 to 8:46 to discuss the proposed budget for the 2005-2006 school year, Todd moved to approve the budget as submitted and forward it to the Parish Council. Pat gave a second to the motion which passed.

Unfinished Business:

Catechist Dinner: Monte thanked everyone who helped with the November dinner. At a future meeting he will suggest dates to the Board for the next catechist appreciation event.

New Business:

Generations of Faith Program Video: There was consensus to postpone viewing the video, circulating copies among members to watch independently. John spoke of his experience visiting a program session at a parish in Marshalltown. There was discussion of advantages and challenges of adopting the program here.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills Results: There was consensus to postpone presentation of information to another meeting.

Reduction of Teaching Staff. Monte moved that the teaching staff for the 2005-2006 school year be reduced, due to discontinuation of the 6th grade. Todd voiced a second to the motion which passed without discussion.

Pastoral Comments: No "closing thoughts" were voiced.

Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson