

**St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting
March 2005**

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

Member Excused:
Rev. Terry Rassmussen

Administrators Present:
John Hayes, Duane Siepker

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

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Gina Isebrands. Gary led the group in prayer. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting as presented. Gary voiced a second to the motion which carried. Each Board member was assigned to a classroom to observe the catechetical process for 15 minutes.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: Board members expressed admiration of and appreciation for catechists they observed with 7th and 8th grade youth tonight. John highlighted portions of his report and noted that, because of Father Terry's absence today, the schedule for students to have an opportunity to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation during class time would have to be altered. At a Generations of Faith Workshop on February 17, it was learned that a 6-year plan is utilized to cover topics. A proposed budget for 2005-2006 was provided; John reported that the finance committee indicated that revenues need to be increased and expenses decreased. First Eucharist preparation meetings were attended by 100% of parents. Share-A-Meal will occur April 5, involving John, Father Terry, and several Board members; changing the coinciding date of the Board meeting was briefly discussed.

Principal: Duane's report announced the Archdiocesan Mid-cycle Review scheduled for April 6. Board members were asked to make themselves available to questions of the reviewers. Duane reported that 28 children registered for kindergarten 2005-2006 at Roundup February 24. He recommended that all applicants be accepted. Pat moved that all registrations received at Roundup be accepted. Gary gave a second to the motion which passed after discussion. To assist a balanced budget, Duane said that when a student leaves the school due to moving from the area he would like to fill the classroom vacancy with another student. Monte moved to replace a student who departs, returning the class size to the original number. Pat voiced a second. Discussion followed. The motion passed. Preschool Roundup will be held March 3. Based on

registrations received, a decision will be made on whether to hold one or two session per day for 2005-2006.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Monte said that the group will meet March 8.

Parish Council: Pat submitted a printed report on the February 28 meeting.

FSA: There was no report. Gina read aloud a letter received from Connie Vaclav regarding use of SCRIP profits. Board members agreed that the funds are to be used to support and enhance educational programs for the entire parish.

Long Range Planning Committee: Susan reiterated that John, Brenda Diesslin, and several parish staff members attended the Generations of Faith Workshop. There was discussion about the program and the positive and negative aspects of instituting it in the fall. A sacramental program for youth interested in Confirmation would be offered by Joe Lawlor, director of Youth Ministry, in addition to the monthly Generations of Faith sessions for all parishioners. Todd moved to start the Generations of Faith program in the fall of 2005. Mark gave a second to the motion which passed with one vote of opposition; that voter said he would support the group decision.

Preschool Committee: Duane announced that applications were received for the newly-created position of preschool teacher. He recommended hiring Christine L. Baker. Pat moved to offer the job to Christine L. Baker. Mark voiced a second to the motion which carried.

School Budget: Duane said that he has been asked by the finance committee to trim the budget and reduce expenses which would include reductions in wage increases.

Unfinished Business:

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Results: School teachers Lori Van Fleet and Kyle Uhlenkamp provided results of tests administered to 2nd through 6th grade students last fall. They emphasized the progress and success of the students, and spoke of staff evaluations of the test results and strategies to improve student learning and outcomes.

Gala: A representative of the Gala committee suggested to the Board that 90% of the proceeds of the event being planned should be directed to the educational endowment fund and 10% to immediate needs of parish education programs; of that 10%, 85-90% of the money should be directed to school needs and 10-15% to needs of other educational programs. Monte moved to distribute proceeds of the Gala as follows: 90% to the endowment fund, 10% to educational needs of the parish; of that 10%, 85% should go to the school, 15% to religious education programs. There was brief discussion. Todd gave a second to the motion which passed.

New Business:

Proposed Calendar for 2005-2006: Duane noted differences between the 2005-2006 calendar for the Ames Community School District and the calendar proposed for St. Cecilia School. Pat moved to adopt the proposed calendar for the 2005-2006 school year. Todd voiced a second to the motion which passed.

Pastoral Comments:

The Board began an executive session at 9:13 PM to discuss personnel issues. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson