

**St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting
September 6, 2005**

Members Present: Monte Streit, President, Todd Clancy, VP, Pat Halbur, Mark Gannon, Judy Rudman

Member Excused: Rev. Terry Rassmussen, Gary Gorman, Larry Gross

Administrators Present: John Hayes, DRE, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio Member Present: Tiffany Walker, FSA

Others Present: Lois Vidimos, Susan Campbell, Shari Hammer, Kyle Uhlemkamp, Peg Gaul, Peg Stowell, Barb Tallman, Lori Van Fleet, Kimberly Sitzman, Barb Armstrong, Lori Grogg, Cathy Gerbracht

The meeting was called to order by President Monte Streit at 8:02pm.
Duane Siepker opened the meeting with a prayer.
The minutes from the August 2, 2005 meeting were approved.

Duane Siepker left the room prior to the guest staff speakers taking a turn to speak on behalf of what a wonderful principal they feel Mr. Siepker is. They stressed how understanding he is with the students and staff while at the same time he pushes them and works with them to reach their highest potential. They stressed how disappointed they will be if he does resign this year and that our school really cannot afford to lose him. It took the staff members approximately half an hour to stress their concerns with him leaving and to applaud him for what a wonderful principal he is for St. Cecilia School. The staff also wanted to express that it was their decision to address the board on this matter and Mr. Siepker had no role in them talking to the board. They really want the board to try and work with Mr. Siepker to convince him to stay.
Monte Streit thanked the staff for sharing this information with the board and stressed to them how he agreed with everything that they said – the board is working hard on trying to help resolve the reasons that are making Mr. Siepker's job so stressful.
The staff left the room and Mr. Siepker returned.

Duane showed a video that the board must watch that is made by the Archdioceses of Dubuque. It talked about guidelines for Board of Education Members.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John Hayes reported that the sign-ups for The Generations of Faith Program are going well as he had approximately 650 sign up to date. Mr. Hayes' expectation is around 800.

RCIA should be growing to approximately 10 people on Sundays once things get back in session.

There will be a meeting for parents and children to discuss First Reconciliation – there are 22 students outside of the St. Cecilia School and 26 in the day school. The program will be a little

different this year with the option of it either being taught mostly at home with the parents or on Monday nights taught in the church.

Board member Judy Rudman, Youth Ministry Director, Joe Lawlor, and John Hayes are working on putting together a Wednesday program for Middle School aged children.

Principal: Duane Siepkier reported that he will keep the board informed on expenses each month. 159 kids are enrolled in the Kindergarten – thru 5 grade with an average of 26.5 students in each class. Preschool enrollment is 40 students. Virtus training will be offered again. He really wants to try and find funding to improve the computers in the teachers rooms – most of them are very outdated so it is hard for the teachers to be excited about technology when they have such outdated equipment. He brought in a piece of a lunchroom table that has fallen off to show that we need to get it in the budget to fix some of the broken tables. The school Improvement Advisory committee will look at long range items that we need to replace and try to devise a plan.

A family who is a victim of the hurricane Katrina will be joining our school short term – they have a preschooler, kindergartener and second grader.

Todd, Duane and Monte were going to meet to start discussing long-range planning.

They will be discussing third party options for income, including the gala and grant writing.

They are looking into a misreporting on the expenses of teachers salary – there is a possible accounting error that they need to fix.

Special Reports:

Committee Reports:

FSA: Tiffany reported that the first meeting will be Monday September 19th where they will discuss the budget, discuss the Fall Family Festival and plan for other events.

Parish Council: Todd reported to them about enrollment and the new boiler.

Finance: There was no report.

Long Range Planning Committee: There was no report.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Committee Assignment – board members signed up to help on various committees.
- B. Self-Assessment requested by Parish Council. Judy broke down the following seven areas and what we do as a church and school in these areas:
 - a. Early childhood Formation
 - b. Catechetical Programs for Children
 - c. St. Cecilia Day School
 - d. Youth Ministry
 - e. Young Adults
 - f. Special Needs
 - g. Family

Judy will e-mail a list of these programs to each board member and they will evaluate on how they are working on each of these.

The board will sponsor the Catechistic dinner on February 26, 2006.

New Business:

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – Statement on “Renewing Our Commitment of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium” - Duane spoke about how great it is to follow this.

It was asked if the board wanted to sponsor a parish breakfast in January. The board declined since they will be sponsoring the Catechistic dinner in February.

Pastoral Comments: No "closing thoughts" were voiced.

Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m..

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson