

St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting

December 6, 2005

Members Present: Monte Streit, Pres., Todd Clancy, VP, Pat Halbur, Rev. Terry Rassmussen, Judy Rudman, Gary Gorman

Members Excused: Larry Gross, Mark Gannon

Administrators Present: John Hayes, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio Member Absent: Tiffany Walker (Family School Association)

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Monte Streit. Todd led the group in prayer. Gary moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting as presented. Pat voiced a second to the motion which carried.

Members agreed to alter the published agenda to discuss an item of unfinished business, to allow a guest speaker to leave early. John Nelson, member of the parish Finance Committee, spoke about the educational endowment fund and use of monies expected to be raised by the Gala. The fund currently contains about \$110,000; ten percent (10%) can be used for educational needs with the rest left untouched to build an income stream. Concerns were expressed about the possibility of future Board members misunderstanding the use of the fund and being inclined to spend more than 10% of the fund annually. Pat moved to ask the Finance Committee to consider an amendment to the St. Cecilia Educational Development Fund document that would address use of Gala money. Todd gave a second to the motion. John explained the role of the Finance Committee, Parish Council and Board of Education regarding the document. There was discussion of the desire to require a vote on any proposed changes to the Fund document be conducted following readings at two (2) meetings. A vote to approve the motion regarding an amendment passed.

For the In-service, members reviewed an outline of Sections 7 and 8 and viewed Sections 9 and 10 of the Archdiocesan Board video.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John highlighted portions of his report, adding that is he trying to recruit three (3) more catechists for the Generations of Faith festivals.

Principal: In addition to his report, Duane said that rather than use money from the school budget, the FSA contributed \$100 toward a gift for Msgr. Toale of the Archdiocesan BOE. Via Friday folders, he will notify parents of particulars regarding use of the Ames City Auditorium for the Christmas program. Unexpected service to the boiler, walk-in freezer, and gas leaks in the kitchen exceeded budgeted line items, necessitating adjustment to the budget. He provided updates on the waiting list for school admission.

Special Reports:

Committee Reports:

Finance: : Monte noted that Arlene Stacy, parish business manager, has resigned.

Parish Council: Pat commented on items in his report of the November 29 meeting.

FSA: Judy said that the group is preparing for the lasagna dinner.

Long Range Planning Committee:: John said that reports received of the Board's self assessment are being reviewed, including the 10 areas of catechesis, and choosing what to do and how to do it.

Unfinished Business:

Parish Council Request for Self-assessment: Monte proposed establishing a subcommittee. Duane and John volunteered to be on the committee. Mark Gannon and Larry Gross will be asked to serve.

School Improvement Advisory Committee's Maintenance Recommendations: A list of recommendations for 2006-2007, addressing security improvements and other repair or replacement needs and the approximate cost of each, was provided for consideration in future budgets.

Review of School Budget for November 2005: Data provided by Duane was reviewed.

New Business:

Request for Full-time Computer Teacher: Duane asked to extend the hours for Christopher Middleman. Pat moved to approve the request to move Christopher Middleman to full time. Judy gave a second to the motion. Discussion included employing him at 80% during the second semester of the current school year, moving to full time for the '06-2007 year. The motion carried.

Enrollment/Class size: There was discussion of concerns expressed by some parents regarding class size following recent admissions to the school. Duane has created an ad hoc committee, chaired by Anne Clem, to explore solutions to class size while accommodating students requesting admission.

Letter of Appreciation: Monte read a letter received from a high school administrator in New Orleans, recipient of school supplies in backpacks donated by St. Cecilia families following Hurricane Katrina,

Pastoral Comments: Father Terry recommended viewing a televised biography of Pope John Paul II.

Pat moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd gave a second to the motion which passed. Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson