

## **St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting**

March 7, 2006

**Members Present:** Todd Clancy, VP, Pat Halbur, Larry Gross , Judy Rudman, Gary Gorman, Mark Gannon

**Members Excused:** Monte Streit, Pres., Rev. Terry Rassmussen

**Administrators Present:** John Hayes, Duane Siepker

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

### **Others Present:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-Chairman Todd Clancy. Mark led the group in prayer.

Judy moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting as presented. Pat voiced a second to the motion which carried.

Board members walked to the parish construction site to view progress.

For the In-service, Judy Roberts and Cathy Gerbracht presented a review of the school hot lunch program, including results of the Management Evaluation of National School Lunch Program operations conducted January 12, and information about the financial status of the program and fees charged for meals by area schools. Pat moved to increase the fee per meal to \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults for next year. Judy gave a second to the motion which passed.

### **Administrative Reports:**

**Director of Religious Education:** John provided a printed report. A discussion of the Generations of Faith festivals included topics mentioned at a brainstorming session held on February 22. Attempts are being made to critique our program and increase attendance.

**Principal:** To his printed report Duane added comments about the February 23 Kindergarten roundup and March 3 Preschool roundup. He provided copies of a complimentary letter from Darren and Marsha Dies, report from the City of Ames Health Department Food Establishment Inspection, a proposal and cost estimate to replace the (kitchen) drain line from triple bowl pot sink to grease trap, information about the sound control of room dividers, and several photographs.

### **Special Reports:**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** There was no report.

**Parish Council:** Pat said that Parish Council members, while interested in the concept, expressed concerns about the ramifications of adding sections of grade levels to the school and desire more information, including whether Duane will stay on as principal. Pat also asked if individuals will be allowed to attend the auction portion of the Gala without purchasing tickets for the dinner. The question will be referred to the Gala committee for consideration.

**FSA:** Tiffany spoke about FSA activities and her hopes to involve more parents in the association.

**BUDGET:** John Hayes said that he is working with Jerry Greving, parish Business Manager, to develop a budget for Religious Education for 2006-2007.

***School Improvement Advisory ad Hoc Committee:*** Information from Anne Clem was provided regarding a proposal for two sections per grade for the school, with class sizes of 18-20 students. At the request of Duane, parishioners John Nelson and Joel Thilges addressed the Board with data they compiled, projecting for 5 years, the revenues required to meet anticipated expenses with expansions of student and faculty for K-4 for one year, then K-5 for subsequent years. A lengthy discussion ensued, including the pros, cons, and timeline to prepare for added sections; physical space requirements, the effect on quality of education; whether associates would be utilized; whether Duane would accept a contract for next year. At 9:14 Gary moved to go to Executive session; Pat gave a second to the motion which carried. At 9:33 the closed session ended. Todd asked Duane to provide more information, including the effect on the budget if educational aides were provided for Kindergarten through 4th Grade; budget effects if only grades Kindergarten, 2, and 4 each added a section for 2006-2007; a copy of the waiting list for students seeking enrollment; and the feasibility of using the rooms currently designated for Music and Art as grade-level classrooms. Board members will attempt to view a classroom partitioned and set up for two sections, and will try to gather information and meet prior to the Parish Council meeting scheduled for March 21.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Federal Hot Lunch Program Audit:** Refer to In-service *in* the opening paragraph.

### **New Business:**

***Resignation:*** Duane provided copies on an e-mail he received February 15 from Christine Baker, Preschool teacher. Mark moved to accept the resignation of Christine Baker at the end of her contract. Larry gave a second to the motion which passed.

***Contract Recommendations:*** Duane listed current teachers and recommended that contracts be offered to each of them for next year. Gary moved to offer contracts to the certified staff members for the 2006-2007 school year. Judy voiced a second to the motion which carried.

***Proposed Calendar for 2006-2007.*** Duane provided copies of proposed calendars for 2006-2007 for St. Cecilia School and for the Ames Community School District, and notes on the differences

between the two. Judy moved to accept the proposed calendar for St. Cecilia School for 2006-2007, subject to change if the ACSD makes changes. Gary gave a second to the motion which passed.

**Closing Thoughts:** Judy said that flowers were sent to Monte Streit during his hospitalization.

**Pastoral Comments:**

Pat moved that the meeting be adjourned. Larry gave a second to the motion which carried. Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.

*Submitted by* Carolyn J. Thogerson