

**St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting
September 5, 2006**

Members Present: Todd Clancy, President, Larry Gross, Vice-President, Judy Rudman, Secretary, Pat Halbur, Pat Stahr, Kathy Wipf, Father Nienhaus

Member Excused: Gary Gorman

Administrators Present: John Hayes, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio - FSA Pres Tiffany Walker

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Todd Clancy. John Hayes led the group in prayer. Board members re-introduced themselves to Father Neinhaus. Pat Halbur moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Larry gave a second to the motion which carried. An in-service based on the Education and Faith Formation Board Gram was presented by John Hayes.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John gave additional information for all sections of his printed report. He reported that 70-80 middle school students participated in the YIKES Cook-Out at Inis Grove. The Fall Program for YIKES begins Sept. 6th. The September sessions for Generations of Faith have been planned. Registrations for Generations of Faith are currently: 85 persons for Sunday afternoon; 104 persons for Wednesday evening; 121 persons for Sunday evening. Thirteen people have enrolled in the alternative RE program. Approximately 58 children have enrolled in the First Reconciliation Sacrament program.

Principal: Duane reported that the preschool program enrollment is 19 students for the 3 year-old class and 22 students for the 4 year-old class. Judy inquired as to how the student enrollment exceeded 20. Mr. Siepker explained that he expected several students to withdrawal from the program like last year, but this did not occur. One new kindergarten student has joined Mrs. Campbell's class resulting in a total of 44 students in kindergarten. Duane reported that the new janitorial service, ProCleaning, has been working very well and positive feedback has been received by parents. Information was provided about Gibbs Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling's repair of one damaged and one blocked drain using a high pressure water jetter. This problem has been resolved after nearly 10 years.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Pat Halbur submitted a draft of the Finance Committee meeting. The finance committee noted that some school families were receiving St. Cecilia tuition rates, but were not registered parishioners at St. Cecilia's. Mr. Siepker sent a note home to families to address this issue. Discrepancies in the school income were also discussed by the Finance Committee. Mr.

Siepkner explained that 87% of the school budget is based on salaries and is difficult to accurately predict in June before all positions are secured for the next school year. He offered that he could provide a second budget estimate following the hiring of all staff at the end of August which would be more accurate.

Parish Council: Larry reported that the current Parish budget will be approved with a \$60,000 budget deficit (\$20,000 of this deficit is due to the preschool classroom construction). The Parish Council is exploring ways to increase revenue.

FSA: Tiffany provided budget information for FSA. They have an excess of \$8,000. FSA is considering retaining \$3,000 for annual expenses and giving the rest of the monies to the Board of Education to allocate at their discretion.

Long-Range Planning: Will now be called Catechetical Planning Committee. Next meeting will be September 21st.

SESC (School Expansion): Pat reported that this group has met 2 times. Five subcommittees have been created: Finance, Enrollment, Facilities, Communications, and Personnel. The committees are meeting bimonthly and are exploring various expansion options. When discussing space issues, Fr. Neinhaus expressed support for utilizing the Rectory living room and garage for potential classroom spaces.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Siepkner brought up a report completed by Joe Hansen of Heartland AEA noting the need for improvements in our security for our school. Nine locations that allow access to our building were identified. Intruder locks will be placed on all classroom doors. Emergency lock-down procedures were developed and practiced by staff. Exploration of additional safety issues was discussed and bids for securing the main entrance to our school and the hallway by the Chapel will be obtained.

New Business:

Pat Halbur suggested that St. Cecilia consider a book fee if this proposal passes in the Ames Community Schools. Mr. Siepkner offered that a technology fee might also be helpful to prevent our technology resources from becoming outdated as quickly as they have in the past.

Larry expressed concern about teachers not having access to their computers at times. Mr. Siepkner explained that some bugs are still being worked out in the system.

Judy suggested that an interest survey be created to send to families exploring the option of an afternoon preschool program to reduce the student ratio in the classroom to 1:8 without turning away interested families.

Pastoral Comments:

Pat Halbur moved to adjourn the meeting and Larry gave a second to the motion which carried. Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.