

St. Cecilia Parish Board of Education Meeting

October 3, 2006

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

Member Excused:

Administrators Present: John Hayes, Duane Siepker

Ex-Officio - FSA Pres: Tiffany Walker

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Todd Clancy. Duane led the group in reflection and prayer. Board members reintroduced themselves to Father Nienhaus. Pat Halbur moved to approve the minutes of the September 5 meeting as presented. Kathy voiced a second to the motion which carried. For the in-service, Duane presented information based on the September and October editions of the *Education & Faith Formation Board Gram*, a monthly newsletter of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John updated his printed report, noting that eleven (11) persons attend RCIA sessions and four (4) children are in the Children's Catechumenate. Twelve (12) youth of eight (8) families have enrolled in an Alternative Religious Education Program. Parents of middle-school aged youth have joined the Generations of Faith planning team. St. Cecilia's parish has been asked by the Center for Ministry Development to host a Generations of Faith informational meeting in February 2007.

Principal: Duane highlighted sections of his printed report. Following the announcement that few applicants to the Tuition/Fee Assistance Fund received grants this academic year, there was lengthy discussion of the Tuition/Fee Assistance Fund including an urgent need for donations to the fund and the need for applicants to adequately complete the application form. Todd directed Pat Halbur to ask the Finance Committee to reconsider the applications of those who were recently denied. Board members will see donations to the Fund with notices in the bulletin, appeals at weekend liturgies during Catholic Schools Week, and at the Gala celebration.

Committee Reports:

Finance: The minutes of the September 12 meeting of the parish Finance committee and Pat Halbur's report to the committee from the BOE were reviewed. There was discussion of the financial struggles of the parish and attempts by Duane and John to curtail expenditures. Noting a sentence in the minutes of the finance committee meeting stating "As per the Parish Council mandate the different departments need to reduce expenses by 3% from this year's budget,"

Board members requested that Pat Halbur obtain clarification from the Parish Council regarding which fiscal year (current or next) is being targeted.

Parish Council: Larry provided a report of the Parish Council meeting of September 26.

FSA: Tiffany supplied copies of the FSA 2006-2007 budget. To enhance meetings this year, guest speakers are being invited to provide information on a variety of topics.

Long-Range Planning: John said that committee members plan to survey parishioners on where we are in the ten (10) areas of catechesis, hope to schedule an Open Forum for February, and plan to assess the results of the survey and the meeting to provide information to the Board in May or June.

Unfinished Business: Security system bids from CEC and Walsh Door were received and reviewed. Pat Halbur moved to accept the bid from Walsh. Gary gave a second to the motion which passed with one (1) vote of opposition voiced. Duane was asked to submit at the next Board meeting a list of anticipated costs for items which have not been included in the budget (security, playground equipment, etc.) and the balance of funds available for use.

New Business:

Archdiocese of Dubuque 2006-07 Enrollment Review Form: Duane said that the School Improvement Advisory Committee will review the form and bring information to the BOE in November.

Filters: Duane displayed a filter from part of the heating/cooling system and announced that filters throughout the building need periodic replacement. The contract with a company to clean the facility does not include replacement of filters. Board members volunteered to do the work.

Painting the Multi-purpose Room: Tiffany reminded the group that the gym needs to be painted. Volunteers will be sought to complete the project prior to an Open House.

School Expansion Study: Todd said that the committee plans to make a presentation to the Board in November.

Gala: Judy requested a discussion at the next BOE meeting regarding use of proceeds from the 2006 Gala and suggestions for use of funds raised at the 2007 event.

Pastoral Comments:

Father Neinhaus complimented the Board for "doing a good job."

Pat Stahr moved that the meeting be adjourned. Judy gave a second to the motion which carried. Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson