

SAINT CECILIA PARISH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

October 2, 2007

Members Present: Todd Clancy, Larry Gross, Rick Hoenig, Judy Rudman, Pat Stahr, Tim Simodynes,
Kathy Wipf, Fr. Ivan Nienhaus

Administrators Present: John Hayes (DRE), Duane Siepker (Principal), Anna Steele (Youth Ministry)

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nancy Lee-Fink (Family School Association)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Larry Gross. Members prayed the Prayer of St. Francis. Pat moved to approve the minutes of the September 4 regular meeting, and the September 25 special session, replacing the word "Executive" with "Special" at the beginning of the third paragraph. Todd voiced a second to the motion which carried. For the In-service John reviewed sections of the Archdiocese's September edition of the *Education & Faith Formation Board Gram*.

Before continuing with the published agenda, Larry invited guests to address the Board regarding class size. Duane left the room, citing his desire to allow teachers to speak without hesitation. Representing Lori Van Fleet (Grade 2), and speaking for and accompanied by teachers Katie Gerbracht (Grade 3) and Rita Anderson (Grade 5), Barb Tallman (Grade 4) said that the teachers do assessments and evaluations regularly, have a good grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of each of their 29 students, and, with the assistance of Tilda Thompson (educational aide), are able to meet the needs of each student. Each teacher also utilizes parent volunteers as she sees fit. They felt that the number of students in each class was not a gauge of, nor an impediment to, quality teaching and student progress. They don't feel the need to decrease the enrollment in their classrooms or to increase the hours of assistance by an educational aide.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John presented a printed report, said that RCIA keeps growing, and answered a question about the youngest age appropriate for attendance at a Generations of Faith event.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Anna highlighted portions of her printed report.

Principal: Duane provided a report, including enrollment totals and the number of people on waiting lists for each session of preschool and each grade of the school. Ovens will soon be replaced in the kitchen. Checks were received from two Ames churches to be used toward tuition for their parishioners, and a check from two individuals for support of the Art and Music departments.

Acceptance of Reports:

Finance Committee: Rick commented on several topics in the minutes of the Sept. 11 meeting, including that money needs to be set aside for repairs/maintenance/replacement of fired assets. Tuition issues were also discussed.

Parish Council and Shared Development Director: Todd and Father Nienhaus said they are optimistic that Karen Kerns will soon be hired by the parish as Development Director.

Class Size: Judy presented recommendations of the Class Enrollment Committee comprised of Judy Rudman, Pat Stahr, Larry Gross, and Duane Siepker. Following preparation of the report, a list of ten (10) comment/suggestions/questions were received from Jeff Henderson, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese. The committee will reconvene to consider Jeff's ideas and comments made by teachers. It was decided that the St. Cecilia School enrollment policy needs to be reviewed.

Space Committee: Todd said that the committee will determine space needs for the school and develop short and long range plans.

Family School Association: In addition to her printed report, Nancy said that the Fall Family Festival has been canceled and will be replaced with Trunk-A-Treat on October 28.

Unfinished Business:

Catechist Dinner: Led by Kathy, preparations for the October 7 event were discussed.

New Business:

Future Budget Consideration: Noting that during the past year the Education Center has looked cleaner than in previous years, thanks to the work of Pro Cleaning personnel and St. Cecilia's staff, Judy suggested that options be considered to expand custodial services. Appropriate adjustments would need to be made in the budget for next year.

Future Agenda: Rick noted that the Board needs to plan to review ABE policies.

Pastoral Comments: Father Nienhaus reminded people to be attuned to the needs of the Sillman family.

Todd moved to adjourn the meeting- Judy provided a second to the motion which passed. After praying, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson