

These meeting minutes were approved by the Parish Council
at the regular meeting of April 18.

**MINUTES
of a Special Meeting
of the SAINT CECILIA PARISH COUNCIL
Called for Tuesday, March 28, 2006
to discuss school overcrowding.**

Chairperson **Ed Fawkes** called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Parish Council members in attendance were: Bill Haas, Jonathan Weber, Jean Kresse, Ed Fawkes, Terry Herrman, Bud Montang, Alan Christy, Karen Popelka and Chuck Gilarski. Business Manager Jerry Greving and Parish Council Recording Secretary James Westphal were also in attendance.

Representing the Board of Education and the School Improvement Committee were: Duane Siepker, School Principal, Todd Clancy, Monte Streit, Pat Halbur, Peg Stowell, Ann Clem, Lori Van Fleet, Joel Thilges and several other interested parties whose names were not known.

Bill Haas led the group in prayer.

Ann Clem and **Joel Thilges** led a PowerPoint presentation and discussion of the problem, which encompassed:

- The fact that we feel we are under serving our Catholic community.
- Classes are now approaching or are at maximum numbers for teachers to do a good job in teaching their students.
- We are now turning children of Saint Cecilia families away. We are also faced with a situation of turning incoming Kindergarten families away at an unprecedented level.
- Studies (STAR) show that smaller classes (18-24) perform better and receive better results for their efforts.
- The proposed budgetary changes that will be necessary.

The Board of Education and the School Improvement Committee is asking for authorization to expand the school by creating two sections of each class Kindergarten through Fourth Grade if the enrollment numbers warrant said expansion. This could necessitate partitioning classrooms and utilizing the Art and Music Rooms as classrooms as well as the Adult/Youth Room and the old rectory. Because of the smaller class size teacher's aides will be eliminated.

A lengthy question and answer discussion followed.

At 8:37 p.m. **Ed Fawkes** asked the school group to step outside the room for about 20 minutes while the Parish Council discussed the matter. When the Parish Council began discussion it was obvious that discussion would exceed the 20 minutes Ed had asked for so he informed the school group that he would have a written answer back to them tomorrow.

The Council then discussed at length all the aspects of the school group's plan. At 10:30 p.m. the following Motion was authored:

MOTION by **Bud Montang**, supported by **Jonathan Weber**.

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It is the long-range vision of the Parish Council to provide the opportunity of a Catholic education to as many families as possible. With this in mind, we authorize for the 2006-2007 school year:

1. The expansion of Kindergarten to two sections
2. The expansion of one other grade to two sections if needed.
3. Our intent is to allow those students enrolled in 2006-2007 to complete their elementary education at Saint Cecilia's.
4. The Adult/Youth Room and the old rectory are not to be modified in their use.

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. with a prayer led by **Bill Haas**.

Respectfully submitted,

James Westphal, Recording Secretary