

St. Mary's School Board Minutes

October 12, 2011

St. Mary's School Board President Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. The meeting was opened in prayer and scripture by Father Nigli. Members present included: Father Francis Nigli, Dorothy Tomjack, Gene Soukup, Troy Heiser, Dean Benson, Sharon Spencer, Susie Kramer, Shad Thompson and Mr. Walt Dupre. Absent: Jim Sibbel and LuAnn Shields. Troy Heiser made a motion to approve the September minutes. Dorothy Tomjack seconded. Motion carried. Shad Thompson made a motion to approve the October agenda. Dean Benson seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Campaigns- "*Adestes fidelis*" campaign is not just a onetime thing. Spirituality and hospitality have been occurring but we need more options to expand upon these to encourage people to want to come to St. Mary's. There will continue to be an hour of prayer each Sunday from 2-3 p.m.

Father Nigli also addressed some of the projects that need to be done. An architect will be coming up with a cost analysis report on the grade school roof, a new connection between the elementary and high school buildings, a new grade school entrance and more. Shad Thompson made a committee report on the assessment of the grounds and exterior of buildings. There are many items that need to be addressed. Shad mentioned many of these projects and he will be putting these into a list that will be sent out to all board members. Shad and Troy will continue to meet and evaluate the interior of the buildings for much needed improvements as well.

School Report- Mr. Dupre addressed the items on the business agenda. Leeza Adams was present and school dances and royalty were discussed. There is great concern in how to get kids more involved with the dances so that there is a reason to continue with them. There is a concern with the amount of standing around and funds being spent on decorations and food if the kids are not enjoying the dances. Many different ideas were tossed around for potential improvements. At this time, Mr. Dupre and Father Nigli will proceed with getting student feedback on their thoughts for improvements.

Accelerated Reading and Eligibility was discussed and the confusion with this program. The Reading program is justified by the fact that our test scores in reading are the lowest. If you struggle to read and comprehend, you will struggle with other subjects as well. The more you read the better you get. Mr. Dupre explained that Accelerated Reading is held only in the 1st-6th grade. In the 7th-12th grades, a reading period of 15 minutes during the school hours has been set aside for reading only. Accelerated Reading tests are being utilized as the only cost effective, measurable program to be able to allow us to see that kids are reading. Eligibility is a consequence factor. We have tweaked the program from the 2010-2011 school year, and we continue to evaluate the criteria for this program. This reading program does not have any bearing on a student's grade point average and Mr. Dupre is currently looking into how to make it so that Sycamore does not assign a letter grade to this program. At this time, the program is as follows. A student must have 15 points by November 1st to remain eligible or an additional 5 points from their total from the previous first of the month. Ineligibility will occur if this goal is not met and this includes all athletics, after school activities, and field trips.

Eligibility was also discussed in regards to our current grading system. Currently a student will become ineligible if they are failing in 1 subject for two weeks or 2 or more subjects for one week. Grades are currently checked every Monday with ineligibility beginning on the following Wednesday through Tuesday of the next week. Currently this is being evaluated for classes where no grades may be given in a week's time resulting in no change of grade. Mr. Dupre is currently re-evaluating eligibility criteria for the 2nd quarter.

3rd on the agenda was the business of kids running around during games. The reasoning for this was that things were getting broken inside and outside of the building. Safety issues were also a concern for elderly walking around and kids bumping into them. There had also been complaints from persons and schools visiting about the amount of running around by St. Mary's students. There has been an improvement since this was discussed with parents at the beginning of school. This will continue to be evaluated as we progress into basketball season when this was at the highest concern.

Next on the agenda was the concern with the times coinciding with the public school and the kids coming back late as well as students leaving the public school from the class early to come back for break. Mr. Dupre had rearranged the schedule to include a break time to help all students and those coming back from the public school so that students would not be missing time in our periods here. Students were also addressed to those who were leaving from classes early at the public school as this is not permissible.

As for the business item with the mentally challenged student note that appeared on Sycamore a few weeks ago. Mr. Dupre and Father Nigli explained that there were students involved from more schools than St. Mary's. The students that were alleged in this act were sat down with and informed that if any future allegations came forward that were led to be proven in that behavior that consequences up to and including suspension and/or expulsion could occur.

Next on the agenda was the report on the cheerleader moderators. Resignation was received from one of our cheerleading moderators due to her increasingly busy schedule with activities and classes in and out of school. Denise Pribil will continue on as a cheerleader moderator and will be meeting with Mr. Dupre to evaluate what is needed to maintain the cheerleading program.

The last item on the agenda, school improvements, was discussed during the pastor's report and will be addressed again at future meetings once future assessments have been completed.

Mr. Dupre informed the school board that this is the year for our school's accreditation. Individuals will be coming from AdvancEd to visit the dates of January 23rd and 24th. A snow date has been set for March 5th and 6th. Mr. Dupre is working on getting all information together that is needed. A leadership committee has also been formed to help with the accreditation process. This committee includes Merri Schneider, Kelly Tomjack, Sharon Spencer, Jennie Schneider, Father Jeff Lorig, and Mr. Walt Dupre. A list of items that we have accomplished was also generated as part of the accreditation process.

Items from the floor- There were none.

Items to be placed on November 9th agenda- There were none.

Father Nigli closed the meeting with prayer. Shad Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Spencer seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. **The next meeting will be on November 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.**