

St. Mary's School Board Minutes August 18, 2010

Board president Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer. Members present included: Jill Everitt, Gene Soukup, Sharon Spencer, Jim Sibbel, LuAnn Shields, Dorothy Tomjack and Shad Thompson, Principal Mr. Walter Dupre and Father Francis Nigli. Absent: Susie Kramer, Merri Schneider. Guest: Joshua Davis, TeamMates Program. New members were welcomed. Jim Sibbel moved to approve the June 2010 minutes, Jill Everitt seconded the motion, motion carried. Sharon Spencer moved to approve the August agenda, Jim Sibbel seconded, motion carried.

TeamMates Mentoring Program

Joshua Davis gave presentation on the mentoring program. This program was started by Tom Osborne. Students, elementary to high school, are matched with mentors who provide support, friendship and a positive example. Ideally, the mentor stays with the student throughout his/her school years. A mentor will meet with a student for one hour per week during the school day. Students who would benefit from this program can be nominated by parent, administration, teacher, or coach. Mentor training will be held on August 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Health Department. Brochures on the TeamMates program, student nomination and mentor forms were provided. Ms. Atkeson will have forms available in her office.

Officer Elections

President nominations: Jim Sibbel nominated Gene Soukup. Luann made a motion to cease nominations and Jim Sibbel seconded that motion. Motion carried. Gene Soukup accepted the nomination and office of President.

Vice-president: Gene Soukup nominated Jim Sibbel. Jill Everitt made a motion to cease nominations and LuAnn Shields seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jim Sibbel accepted the nomination and office of Vice President.

Secretary: Jim Sibbel nominated Jill Everitt, Gene Soukup made a motion to cease nominations and Jim Sibbel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jill Everitt accepted the nomination and office of Secretary.

Pastor's Report

Tuition Payments - The Finance Council was pleased with the progress on tuition payment either upfront or by automatic withdrawal. There are only four families that need a follow-up meeting in regards to tuition payment. It has been communicated to families involved that we cannot continue to have past due tuition.

Summer Projects – There has been lots of involvement of St. Mary's parents with the completion of the Grade School gym floor. This project shows a great deal of ownership in our school. Project 110 had a good response. Fr. Nigli did a follow-up on Project 110 and together raised about \$21,000.

Cardinal Values - Fr. Nigli would like to commend Fr. Lorig and Mr. Dupre on the "CARDINAL" character traits development. This year's school planners look great!

Handbook - Fr. Nigli did get some feedback on some of the policy changes for this year. The biggest concern was the speed of implementation.

Hospital helipad – The hospital blueprints were shown and discussed. Dialogue has been made with Avera St. Anthony's and the finance committee thought further discussion should be held. Safety of the travelers on "Third Street" is the concern. The school board decided that St. Mary's should document our concern with Ron Cork of Avera St. Anthony's and the City of O'Neill.

New Business

School Opening - The opening of school is going well. The high school students are enjoying their break. Pop, juice, and Gatorade are available as well as fruit, crackers, granola bars, nuts and other snacks. The students are welcome to bring their own food to eat during this time.

Summer Projects – The grade school gym will be open late August to light traffic and after Labor Day for regular wear. The Lecture Hall will hopefully be complete by Labor Day. Clint Morril has done most of this project this summer and has some electricians currently helping. Once the Lecture Hall is open, some classes will be moved around. Fr. Lorig has cleaned up the computer labs. The old high school art room has been transformed into a classroom. The grade school basement was flooded this summer and had to be cleaned up. A plumber came in and researched the problem. After the basement was flooded, the drain pipe was changed to back to an eight inch pipe and dirt work next door was redone.

Instructional Materials - In the coming year, we will be looking into the instructional materials we are currently using. The landscape of this is changing rapidly.

Enrollment - 2010 enrollment figures are 116 in Junior High and High School and 107 in the Grade School.

School Cleaning - It was reported that there has been some parental concern with the cleaning of the school by students. This service element evolved from the Cardinal character traits. We want the students to take pride and ownership in our school and appreciate our buildings. The maintenance people have a very full slate.

Luann Shields made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Sharon Spencer seconded the motion, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m. **The next meeting will be on September 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.**