

St. Mary's School Board Minutes

November 16, 2011

St. Mary's School Board President Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 5:33 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, LuAnn Shields, Susie Kramer, Shad Thompson and Mr. Walt Dupre. Absent: Jim Sibbel and Sharon Spencer. Dean Benson made a motion to approve the October minutes. Dorothy Tomjack seconded. Motion carried. Troy Heiser made a motion to approve the November agenda. LuAnn Shields seconded. Motion carried. Sharon Spencer arrived at 5:42 p.m. Jim Sibbel arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Pastor's Report

Grounds Reports- Father Nigli thanked Shad Thompson & Troy Heiser and their groups for getting a lot of the minor projects done. Father would like to get an approximate cost breakdown on some of the proposed minor projects for those who may be interested in donating towards a project. A presentation was given on the current status of the elementary school roof and proposed projects for the school and church buildings. This presentation was put together after a meeting with Don Peter, St. Patrick's/St. Mary's architect. Pitches and slopes will be changed to utilize the 4 drains and a new gutter system to help improve the future roofing system. The cost was estimated at \$400,000. The roofing job would be bid out. The new roof would have a 25 year Firestone warranty. The presentation also exhibited a new grade school entrance. This entrance is estimated at \$31,000.00. A passageway between the elementary and high school buildings was presented with an approximate estimate of \$155,000. The need of a new handicap entrance on the east side of the church was also addressed and an estimate presented of \$66,000. Grade school broilers are also a huge concern. We are currently operating with one broiler that has been put together by pieces from both broilers. The approximate cost to repair the current broiler is estimated at \$3500-6000. The estimated start dates will be dependent on the date bids are received. It is hoped to start soon on the east side of the church with a late spring start on the school. A campaign pledge period will begin the weekend of November 27, 2011 and end the weekend of January 15, 2011. A goal of \$850,000 has been set to achieve the above-mentioned projects and other minor improvements that are needed.

School Report- Mr. Dupre addressed the items on the business agenda. The first item on the agenda of the proposed LB50 in the Nebraska legislature was discussed. LB50 discusses the possibility for tax credit scholarships for 2012 for private school attendees. This bill is currently in committee and Mr. Dupre will keep us updated on the progress of this bill and its relation to St. Mary's schools.

Second on the agenda were school improvements. January 23-24 is the dates that have been set for the state accreditation meetings. The School Improvement Committee has come up with a new mission statement. The current mission statement is as follows: To form students in the image of Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary. The specific mission of St. Mary's School is the spiritual formation of our students into proficient, responsible, community-minded adults, faithful to the Catholic Church and filled with love and zeal to serve God, Church and Country. We emphasize the education of the whole student through excellent programs in theology, academics, the arts, and athletics. The new mission

statement would be as follows: **St. Mary's School is committed to excellence in education and to forming students in the image of Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary. We emphasize the education of the whole person, blending learning with Catholic faith and Catholic faith with daily life.**

Test results are in. Mr. Dupre went over ACT results from the last 5 years and the relation between St. Mary's and state and national scores. Most Junior and Senior students take the ACT test. The top score on an ACT is 36. The PLAN test is taken by our current 10th grade class. The top score on a PLAN test is 32.

Credit requirements were also discussed. St. Mary's currently exceeds 95% of Nebraska schools in credit requirements for graduation. Our current credit requirements are equivalent to an additional 3-4 more classes per four year term. Most of the schools in the comparison are on an 8-period school day.

3rd on the agenda was the business of dances. Mr. Dupre and Ms. Adams have visited with the student council and the possibility of restructuring the current dances. The student council is currently obtaining more information from the varied classes and will report back at their next meeting.

Next on the agenda was reaching out to new families/new areas. An enrollment campaign will begin in February. We need to continue to motivate interest from local Catholic schools with St. Mary's as an upper level education finishing option with nearby Catholic schools only offering an elementary school. We also need to continue to reach out to new families and Catholic families in our community.

The last item on the agenda, co-op with O'Neill Public Schools, was discussed. The co-op opportunities are currently being addressed for the 2012-2014 school calendar years. It was the general consensus that it is beneficial to both schools to work together to obtain what is best for all students involved in activities. A feeler will be put out to see what numbers are interested in participating in previously co-op activities. The O'Neill Public School and St. Mary's will need to meet to discuss future co-op contracts.

Items from the floor- A note from the floor was the concern of the time of the high school conferences and the short notice that was given prior to the conference dates.

Items to be placed on December 14th agenda- There were none.

Gene Soukup closed the meeting with prayer. LuAnn Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dorothy Tomjack seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. **The next meeting will be on December 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.**