

St. Mary's School Board Minutes April 14, 2010

Board president Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Susie Kramer led the opening prayer. Members present included: Susie Kramer, Mel Ohri, LuAnn Shields, Jill Everitt, Merri Schneider, Gene Soukup, Sharon Spencer and Principal Mr. Walter Dupre. Absent: Sue Gallagher, Jim Sibbel. Guest: None. Merri Schneider moved to approve the February 24, 2010 school board minutes, Susie Kramer seconded, motion passed. Mel Ohri moved to approve the April agenda, Luann Shields seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report

St. Patrick's Day representation by St. Mary's included about a dozen students. Father would like to see more children involved, possibly keeping 4th & 9th grades involved and adding additional grades. Those children who want to come and help would be welcome.

Sister Anita has been named 2010 Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Archdiocese of Omaha. On September 16, she will receive her award at the Archbishop's Dinner for Education. The school board should acknowledge this honor with a personal note or email. She will be recognized after tomorrow's Mass.

Transportation from area parishes has been questioned. There will not be a bus service. Discussion was held on possibly giving a break on tuition if the student lives over 15 miles from St. Mary's. We can work on incentives plans to make St. Mary's more attractive. In the Omaha parishes that do not have a Catholic school, the home parish pays a certain amount to the Catholic School where their parishioner attends. Father will check on if this can be done in the rural area.

The Finance Committee recommended that Father send a letter to the families who are default on tuition. These families must visit with Father regarding enrollment next year. Most of these families are not applying for scholarships. Next year's enrollment would be contingent on the visit. A financial arrangement will be made to include signatures. The board agreed to have Father meet with these families.

There was a Siena Francis House drive. The kids brought goods to school and the 7th -12th competed on who collected the most goods. The greatest weight donated by a class gets to take the goods to Omaha, does a community service project and tours Boys Town. This project needs to be sponsored by the school and communicated with the administration. Next year there will be parameters and the date will be set on the calendar.

Most of the kids at St. Mary's have not been to the Easter Triduum. Father would like to make this part of the spiritual formation at St. Mary's with a possibly mandating attendance for the junior class.

New Business

\$10,000 Raffle ReCap – Very positive feedback. We cleared about \$11,500. The nacho bar needs to be in a better spot. Next year, we will keep the raffle the same way other than making the first ticket drawn worth more.

Renovations Update – The gym lighting has been picked out. Incentives will be received by NPPD to replace the lights. The fixtures will be the only costs. \$5,000-6,000 should cover this project. St. Mary's will host the All-Star Basketball game in June and we hope to have it done by then. The fire marshal is looking at the Lecture Hall plans and making a report. We are waiting for the report. The theater seats have been received from NECC and are in storage. Amy Shane would like to move on the gym floor the week after their graduation. We will

need to put a sub-floor in the grade school before that date. Mr. Chvala would like to finish the outdoor basketball court with fence and lights. Father would like to see a water source on that side of the street as well. The doors closing off the locker area have been a problem. We are looking at replacing these doors before next school year.

Technology – Our computer labs are becoming out-dated. Currently we have 80 computers running through one wireless router. In the future, we will need an actual wire to come into the school. There will be costs to get the wire and the cost of internet service will also increase. Once we get E-rate in place, we will need to look at upgrading our internet service.

2010-2011 Calendar & Schedule – The 2010-2011 calendar and tentative bell schedule was distributed.

Personnel Update – Contracts are due tomorrow. Luann Schnidler will be a part-time Language Arts teacher and sponsor Speech and One-Acts. She will also handle the newspaper publicity.

Smart Tuition – A tuition collection process presented at the Archdiocese meeting brochure was distributed.

Future Growth Strategic Plan — The archdiocese, marketing person stressed that we need to develop a five year strategic plan. We need to set realistic goals and outline what needs to be done to reach those goals.

Graduation – A discussion was held on the process of graduation.

School Board Elections – Information weekend will be held August 14 & 15 and election August 21 & 22.

Mel Ohri made the motion to adjourn and Sharon Spencer seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. **The next meeting regular meeting of the school board will be May 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**