

St. Mary's School Board Minutes January 13, 2010

Board president Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Father Lorig led the opening prayer. No guests were in attendance. Members present included: Susie Kramer, LuAnn Shields, Melvin Ohri, Jill Everitt, Merri Schneider, Jim Sibbel, Gene Soukup, Sue Gallagher and Principal Mr. Walter Dupre. Absent: Sharon Spencer. Merri Schneider moved to approve the November school board minutes, Mel Ohri seconded. Jill Everitt moved to approve the January agenda, Merri Schneider seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report

1. The new boiler system has experienced some problems. One boiler is ruined from the oxidization in boiler and the other one is probably going to experience the same problem. We are trying to get a back-up system in place and working on a permanent fix. This is an expensive issue which insurance or warranty will hopefully cover since it is a new system.
2. Our finances are 40% down from what was expected to be received over the Christmas. With fundraisers planned, we will need to keep half of the proceeds to go towards budget and the other half to special projects. The board felt people were aware of the financial needs for the budget.
3. Fr. Nigli discussed an insert in the church bulletin promoting St. Mary's. The school board supported the insert.

Fr. Jeff Report

1. Fr. Jeff presented "Consider St. Mary's" posters and brochures to the board. These posters and brochures will be used in area churches and businesses. It was suggested to use these or something similar in St. Mary's supporter's yards.

Principal's Report

1. **Faculty Update**-Mr. Dupre reported that he is extremely pleased with the faculty. They are a dedicated, hard working faculty. He visits the classrooms regularly and finds good things happening when he visits. The new teachers are very capable and good asset to the school.
2. **Sycamore**-We experienced several Orbund problems so over the Christmas break he decided to go with a different system. Because of the issues, the report cards had to be handwritten and are being sent home via mail. Requested reports were not getting completed via Orbund and they could not provide what was needed. We have partnered with Sycamore. The goal is to have Sycamore functional by February. In staff development meeting tomorrow, the teachers will work with Sycamore. 90% of the Catholic schools in the archdiocese use this system. It is more professional and user friendly. Attendance and lunch count can be done with Sycamore. It will cost 40% less than Orbund on a monthly basis. Sending mass emails to patrons is an option and he will check on telephone call cancellations.
3. **2010-2011 Curriculum/School Day** – handout provided. Mr. Dupre has proposed changes for St. Mary's in the last column of the handout. These proposed changes will be in the numbers of semesters required for graduation in each course of study. He would like to see more electives in the Health Science area where Northeast Community College may be able to help provide. He was looking at a 7 period day, but upon research found most schools are doing 8 period days. In order to have FFA, the students need to have an agriculture class. We are offering Intro to Agriculture this year. The FFA chapter could be with the O'Neill chapter or we could have our own if we had a certified agriculture teacher on staff. We are looking at offering some of the elective classes every other year in order to keep class enrollment at an acceptable level.

New Business

1. **Beast Feast update**-The Girls basketball game has been rescheduled to the same day and will be over around 6:15 p.m. The beast feast starting time will be pushed up to then. There is radio, newspaper ads

and a flyer inserted in the bulletin. The board took flyers to hang around businesses in O'Neill. Catholic Daughters are providing the desserts. Gary Cuddy is working on getting volunteers to make wild dishes. Freshman and sophomore will do clean up. Door prizes will be raffled. The beef will be raffled and you do not need to be present to win. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to offset operational costs.

2. **\$10,000 Raffle update – Friday, April 9** - 250 tickets will be sold at \$100 apiece. This will generate \$25,000 with 5 consolation \$200 winners and the top prize of \$10,000. You will not need to be present to win. Food, drink, entertainment will be involved with the event. The event will be held at KC Hall. Discussion was held on drink tickets and open bar. A committee will be assigned to this event at the February meeting.
3. **Other Fund Raising Opportunities** - McDonalds has not returned the phone call. Subway uses a pre-paid card and will give 2% back to school. It was decided to get St. Mary's signed up for the Subway deal. Please bring back bigger fundraiser ideas to the next meeting.
4. **School Projects to Prioritize** (reference Father's letter) – Please reflect on and bring back your prioritized to the February meeting.
5. **Theatre Seats**-Northeast Community College in Norfolk is replacing their theatre seats on campus. There are several seats available. Some of the seats are in good condition with orange upholstery. The total cost would be around \$20. More information will be obtained on the seats and if they would work in the old high school music room.
6. **Update - Re-design of Display cases and area for awards and honors.** The booster club is working on this project.

Items to Placed on next meeting's agenda – February 10

The next meeting regular meeting of the school board will be February 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Luann Shields and seconded by Sue Gallagher.