

St. Mary's School Board Minutes May 12, 2010

Board president Gene Soukup called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. Jim Sibbel led the opening prayer. Members present included: Susie Kramer, Melvin Ohri, LuAnn Shields, Jill Everitt, Merri Schneider, Gene Soukup, Sharon Spencer, Jim Sibbel and Principal Mr. Walter Dupre. Absent: Sue Gallagher. Guest: None. Merri Schneider moved to approve the April 2010 school board minutes with the addition of adding Sharon Spencer to the list of member's present, Mel Ohri seconded, motion passed. Melvin Ohri moved to approve the May agenda, Sharon Spencer seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report

Symposium update – Parishes without a Catholic school should have an affiliation to the Catholic schools in their area with financial support as well as prayer support. There should be scholarships available from their parishes for Catholic education. With the consolidations in our surrounding area, now is a good time to promote St. Mary's. Discussion was held if parishes could have a "tax" to support Catholic education. The Archbishop has an annual appeal where a certain amount goes to Catholic education. There is a push for a larger percentage to go to Catholic education.

Sue Gallagher arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Retreat - The eighth grade retreat to Omaha was a success. Fr. Gutshall gave a tour of the cathedral and the excavations below. The group also went to Boys Town.

Activities/Celebrations - The musical, academic awards, athletic banquet, and graduation went well. The execution of these events went very smoothly. Father commented that he wished more students were at the events, as the events were not mandatory and some students were missing. Jake Peetz gave a nice talk at the athletic banquet. The prayer for Jesse Peetz will be revisited this in the fall.

Tuition - Tuition information including current and past due amounts was provided. Motion was made by Sharon Spencer and seconded by Mel Ohri to have two tuition choices for 2010-11, to pay in full with 3% discount or a monthly automatic withdrawal. Motion passed. If there is a past due amount, a percentage will be added into the monthly payment. Discussion was held on having an option of working through a bank for those who are in need. This will be researched. Discussion was held to have an adopt-a-child program to provide an education to a child who is in need.

School Board Candidates - Candidates for school board will be presented to the parish the weekend of August 7-8 with the election being held August 14-15. The new members will be installed at the August 18 meeting. Sue Gallagher would like the board to consider her resignation effective in August. Susie Kramer made a motion to accept Sue's resignation, and Jill Everitt seconded. Motion carried. Melvin Ohri will also finish serving his second term this year. Merri Schneider made a motion to elect a person fill a four-year term to replace Sue Gallagher, Mel Ohri seconded. Motion carried. Elections will be held to elect two new members. Candidates should be submitted to Father. Luann made motion to change the election date from April to August in School Board By-laws, Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

School Grounds - The grounds committee, Melvin Ohri and Mr. Dupre will walk through the school campus and determine what needs to be done over the summer months.

New Business

Registration – There will be a computer fee for both grade school and high school students. If a family owns a cardigan that is in good condition, they do not need to purchase another. There will be a letter going out next week for school registration.

Scheduling 2010-2011 – The State of Nebraska has changed a few of the course requirements for high schools. St. Mary's requirements will be changing to be slightly more than the state requirements.

Strategic Plan – Future Growth - A committee will be created to develop a strategic plan. The areas to target will include renovation, technology and staffing. This was tabled until the June meeting.

Renovations - Discussion was held regarding the grade school gym floor. The sanding of the tongue and groove is still being researched. Some changes are being made to the gym lights project. The fire marshal has sent back approval on the lecture hall. There will be a grade school project focusing on the hallways and entry way. Father is working with the hospital and city on the closure of street. When the helicopter pad is in use, the church and school will need a way to exit the grounds so a turnaround is being proposed.

Project 110 – A letter written by Fr. Lorig and Gene Soukup was distributed. The technology within the school is in need of improvement. Fr. Lorig will talk at the alumni banquet in June and there will be envelopes at the place settings for Project 110. Priorities for Project 110 were distributed. Our network switches need to be replaced. We are trying to initiate network printers and eliminate having inkjets in each classroom. The network printers are more cost efficient. This is a two-year technology plan for St. Mary's.

Executive Session - Merri Schneider made motion and Jill Everitt seconded the motion to go into executive session at 9:05 p.m. Luann made motion and Jill Everitt seconded to come out of executive session at 9:30 p.m.

Handbook – A draft of the 2010-11 handbook was distributed with final copy to come in June.

Mel Ohri made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jim Sibbel seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. **The next meeting regular meeting of the school board will be June 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**