

SAINT CECILIA PARISH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 9, 2007

Members Present: Todd Clancy, Gary Gorman, Larry Gross, Judy Rudman, Pat Stahr, Kathy Wipf,
Fr. Ivan Nienhaus, Pat Halbur (attended Finance Committee meeting until about 8:20) Administrators Present: John
Hayes, Duane Sieper Ex-Officio Member Present: Tiffany Walker (Family School Association)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Todd Clancy. Larry led the group in prayer. Judy moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting as presented. Gary voiced a second to the motion which carried. For the In-service, Larry summarized segments of the January 2007 *Education & Faith Formation Board Gram* Vol. 6 from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Duane presented "three summary questions" regarding school enrollment, gleaned by the Archdiocese from surveys; and, from the 2007 Plan of the Archdiocesan School Tuition Organization, local guidelines for distribution of funds and the donation process. Information regarding the STO will be provided to families of school students. Mrs. Kohles, preschool teacher, presented information about St. Cecilia's Preschool Program.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John updated his report printed in mid-December. Citing seven reasons, he recommended discontinuation of the Generations of Faith program beginning in fall, 2007, reverting to weekly youth Religious Education programs. There was discussion of consideration of a blended approach, with weekly catechesis sessions for youth combined with several multi-age festivals per year. Judy moved to discontinue Generations of Faith beginning in the fall of 2007 and resume our more traditional youth Religious Education program, to provide several Religious Education programs for adult parishioners, and work toward several intergenerational faith festivals for the entire parish in the future. Kathy gave a second to the motion. Following discussion, the motion carried with one abstention. John announced that he is working on three courses for presentation to adults during Lent.

Principal: Duane highlighted portions of his printed report and circulated a note received from a family regarding payment of delinquent tuition. The budget status through November 2006 was reviewed. Pictures of the facility were accompanied by comments regarding services provided by Pro Cleaning during the Christmas break. Results of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, taken by students in October 2006, were presented by grade level. With the resignation of Scott Bair, Duane sought a replacement and made a recommendation. Judy moved to hire Kathy Pinkerton as the new counselor. Pat Stahr voiced a second to the motion which received unanimous approval.

Acceptance of Reports:

Finance Committee: Todd said that the December meeting of the committee discussed the final report of the School Expansion Exploration Committee, particularly regarding the budget implications of the transition scenario with teacher aides for Kindergarten and Grade 1. The Parish Council will discuss the committee recommendation during the January 16 meeting.

Parish Council: Larry said that the parish budget is strained.

Family School Association: Tiffany reported that members are working on events planned for Catholic Schools Week.

Catechetical Plan Committee: Results of the parish survey were reviewed. The committee will meet next week. Members plan to be at the February Faith Festival.

School Budget 2007-2008: Duane, Pat Halbur, Larry Gross, and Pat Stahr comprise the committee. Pat Halbur presented the committee's recommendation, noting that tuition increases were required to cover salary increases, in order to stay at 88% of salaries paid last year to employees of the Ames Community School District.

Unfinished Business: None was presented.

New Business:

School Tuition for 2007-2008: Pat Halbur moved to accept tuition increases as proposed by the Board Budget Committee. Larry voiced a second to the motion which carried.

Catechist/volunteer Appreciation Party: Saturday, February 17 was chosen for the party. Time and talents of all Board members will be needed.

Closing Thoughts: Attempts are being made to set a date to communicate results of the SEE committee to parishioners. Youth wearing shoes containing wheels in the soles are not allowed in the building during the school day.

At 5:47 PM Pat Stahr moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy gave a second to the motion which passed. Following a group prayer, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson