

SAINT CECILIA PARISH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

December 4, 2007

Members Present: Todd Clancy, Rick Hoenic, Judy Rudman, Pat Stahr, Tim Simodynes, Kathy Wipf,
Fr. Ivan Nienhaus
Member Excused: Larry Gross
Administrators Present: John Hayes, Duane Siepker, Anna Steele
Ex-Officio Member Present: Nancy Lee-Fink (Family School Association)
Others Present: Jerry Greving (business manager), Karen Kerns (Director of the Office of Community
Development and Communication)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-Chairperson Kathy Wipf. Todd led the group in prayer. Each person was introduced. Todd moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting as presented. Judy voiced a second to the motion which carried. For the In-service, Todd reviewed sections of the November edition of the *Education & Faith Formation Board Gram*.

Administrative Reports:

Director of Religious Education: John announced that, due to weather conditions on December 1, the celebration of First Reconciliation was postponed until January 12. He spoke about information received from parent evaluation forms, and invited Board member comments about a proposed registration form for 2008-09 programs.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Anna highlighted portions of her written report, including that, beginning next year, *The Catholic Faith Handbook* will be the textbook used by high school students.

Principal: Duane reviewed the budget status, commented that the presentation by Mad Science of Central Iowa was a big hit, and answered questions. He provided achievement data made available by the Iowa Department of Education, and Tuition/Fee and salary information available from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Duane stated that the average tuition paid by a St. Cecilia K-5 student is \$1,925.

Acceptance of Reports:

Finance Committee: Rick said that the committee requested a budget status report be submitted by Duane on a quarterly basis, instead of monthly.

Parish Council: Todd said that discussions will continue concerning classroom (enrollment) size.

Family School Association: Nancy said that plans are underway to celebrate Catholic Schools Weeks. Lisa Gundersen has resigned as Co-President of FSA.

Unfinished Business:

Delinquent Tuition Policy There was discussion of the policy, including the ministerial role of addressing issues and steps toward enforcement. Karen will contact an acquaintance for future reference. It was agreed to let the policy stand.

New Business:

Classroom Space for 2008-2009: Todd said that the original art room was converted to a grade level classroom this year; the room currently used for Music will be converted next year. There was discussion of the implications of the parish Phase 2 on parish space and of options for future classroom needs. A committee comprised of Judy, Todd, Rick, and Karen will draft a proposal to present to the Parish Council at the January meeting.

Class Size: Todd referenced an e-mail received from about 15 parent couples of school students. The Board recommended that all writers of the letter be contacted by telephone with a plan for communication. Karen Kerns will call all parents noted on the letter to make certain they know that the Board will respond in a deliberate and ministerial manner. Larry and Karen will draft a letter to the entire school community, addressing issues in a way that emphasizes the new structure which will improve communication and allow for targeting needs that represent the common good of our children. The letter will be reviewed by the Board before it is issued. Judy and Karen will develop a 4-year plan proposal to deliver to the Board and to the Parish Council. The proposal will address two issues: space allocation and multi-grade classes as a potential solution to increased demand for Catholic education. The proposal will philosophically align itself with two compelling themes: 1) the Board wants to encourage families to consider Catholic school as an option so our model must be for long-term sustainability and growth; 2) our goal is to put the educational needs of all children first. The proposal will be delivered in some form at the next Board meeting.

Gala Update: Karen will meet with the Gala committee on Tuesday and will provide an update about our new structure. Karen will assist Gala with development efforts and help the committee define its role within the context of a long-term development plan.

Pastoral Comments: Father Nienhaus informed the Board of two parishioners with serious medical problems. Therese Baker, the parish coordinator of volunteers, will be asked to facilitate support services.

Pat moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd gave a second to the motion which passed. After praying together, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by Carolyn J. Thogerson