

ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting- September 2, 2014

Those attending: Eric Wagoner, Craig Angle, Steve Thoman Shawn Adkins, Susan Hoeing, Don Yeager, Debbie Banks, Paul Barada, and Father Gries.

The meeting opened at 7:10pm in the St Mary School library with a prayer lead by Father Gries. It was noted that minutes from the August meeting had been approved by Email forum.

Mrs. Kirschner presented a report of school activities since the start of the new year on August 6. Her focus is to improve academic achievement and increasing preschool and kindergarten enrollment. A detailed report is attached.

Committee Reports

Board of Education- Mrs. Kirschner presented the school update as previously noted.

Cemetery- No significant changes to report since August. The committee is still planning to have the garages painted in 2014.

Liturgy- Liturgy Committee did not meet in August

Finance- Year end figures for 2013 fiscal year and the budget for 2014 have been approved. July collections were down compared to June, likely due to a high number of parishioner's vacationing during that time. A \$35K payment was made to Stenz Corporation for July invoices from the restoration project. There is still some caulking work remaining on the exterior and warranty repair of the exterior strike plate at the northeast entrance. There is still \$65K remaining on the Stenz contract with ~\$25K of that in retainage.

Maintenance- The parish workday was held on August 15th. Approximately 30 people volunteered to landscape the area around the church, move stored materials from the rectory garage back into the church, and stripe the ADA parking area. Minor repairs were also completed on the school roof drain. Susie Case has volunteered to paint the church sacristies.

There was no update on the quote status for a backup generator to support the sump pumps located in the church basement.

Fall Festival- Final planning for the festival is complete and all committees are ready. The K of C will host the *Triple B Threat* event on Saturday night before the festival. The event will be held on campus and will include brats and beer tasting. The festivities will occur from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Backroads band will perform.

Faith and Family-

Religious Education-Contact-Terri Nigh

There are currently 70 children attending Sunday morning RE classes for grades pre-K through 8. Catechists for this year include Rita Hilt, Jennifer Harpring, Linda Naylor, Cindy Amos, Mary Carroll, Melanie Krieger, Jody Carmony, Connie Krieger, Rachel Corn and Steve Thoman. Volunteer Helpers are Kayleigh Krieger and Will Thoman. Currently there are no preschool or kindergarten children enrolled. This year an Archdiocesan program on child safety titled "Circle of Grace" will be implemented for all grades.

Sodality-Contact-Mary Delay

Sodality is the parish ladies group. They generate income through dues and cutlery sales and use those funds to support needs of the church. They provided funding to purchase Father's Marian vestment, the hand bells used at Mass as well as backing and batting for the quilts raffled at the fall festival. The Sodality hosts a Mother-Daughter pitch-in during October and recently held a dinner this past May that was attended by 40 people.

RCIA-Contact Jerry Rudolf

The Catechists for RCI A are Jerry Rudolf and Amanda Miller. There are currently 5 adults enrolled in the program, two being catechumens and three candidates. They are in the Pre-Catechumenate phase, which is a period of inquiry and discernment regarding an initial decision. The combined Rite of Acceptance/Rite of Welcoming is tentatively scheduled for October 5th at the 10a.m. mass.

Youth Group-Contact-Debbie Banks

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday evenings prior to the high school religious education program. The first meeting will be held on September 14 with an open gym or outside games. Last year there were 8 students involved in youth group, but the sponsors hope for more participation this year. Adult leaders are Debbie banks, Julie Haley, and Jennifer Snow.

Old Business

An organizational planning meeting for the Parish Directory project is scheduled for September 18.

The Rush County Chorale is scheduled to perform a Christmas Concert in the church on December 6th at 7:30 pm and December 7th at 2:30 pm. They are still finalizing their event insurance policy so the above dates are tentative until that policy is in place.

The work camp prayer board will be available for individuals that wish to sign up and pray for the success of the project. The group will have a booth set up at the fall festival for those interested in signing up.

Maintenance Committee is being organized to help identify maintenance needs, as well as plan and execute minor projects. Tom Giesting has volunteered to serve on the committee. Eric Wagoner will be contacting

individuals with maintenance or construction experience to determine if they would be interested in serving the parish through a maintenance ministry.

Ten percent of the net Fall Festival proceeds will be tithed to augment parish ministry efforts. The funds will be used to support the St. Mary Food Pantry as well as supplement the rent and utility fund.

There is no new information regarding the repairs needed to the school roof and façade’.

New Business

A parish-planning meeting originally scheduled for Saturday, September 6 has been cancelled. A reschedule date has not been set.

A draft of the parish annual report was reviewed. No changes were requested at this time.

Father will be unavailable for the next Council meeting scheduled for October 7. The October meeting has been cancelled and the next meeting will occur on November 4.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Thoman, Secretary.

Parish Council Meeting

Principal’s Report

September 2, 2014

We have had a great start to the school year and seem to be in a routine now.

- PTA carpeted K & 1 classrooms as well as the upper floor hall. The parish did the steps on both ends of the building. PTA also paid to have new epoxy put on the main hall.
- Bathrooms were cleaned from top to bottom and some decorations in the form of painting or appliques were put on the walls/stalls.
- Classroom signs were put on the wall in front of each room so visitors or emergency personnel can easily find a room.
- We received an Archdiocese Grant for wireless, new switches, teacher work stations and thin clients that we have now decided to switch to iPads.
- Eight used iPads were purchased from OA and we are purchasing 20 more with the thin client and Title 1 funds plus some of our own technology budget. So we will have 28 iPads for the kids to use and, with some help from a few parents, I am currently looking for grants to help us get to be 1:1 in the near future.
- We have a consistent schedule and all teachers have a personal schedule aligned to the school time periods.
- A new staff handbook has been created.

- We have created a resource program including 5 tablets to help reinforce skills. Miss Isenberg and Miss Niedenthal work with individuals or small groups who struggle with specific content.
- I have started doing 10-minute walk-through visits with the teachers. These are unannounced and I have a form I fill out based on what I see. I then give them feedback. One per week will take place for each teacher at a minimum.
- Teachers all turn in lesson plans on Monday morning and I look over them and give any needed feedback.
- Staff changes – Vicki Murphy is the 4th grade teacher and 4 – 6 math; Mr. Tom Giesting is the maintenance manager. Mrs. Rich has resigned and we are training her replacement; Mrs. Pierce also will be leaving at the end of the quarter and we are working on a replacement for her. She will still take care of book fair.
- Theresa, Amaranta and I are going to become School Safety Specialists and will attend training Nov 18 & 19.
- New math books have been adopted for this year. We will re-evaluate at the end of the year when all companies have books aligned with the new state standards.
- Religion and language books will be adopted for the 2015-16 school year.

We have 87 students at SMS currently. We lost 9 total from last year (4 moved out of county and 5 went to public school). We spoke with each family as to reasons for leaving and most said they just had issues last year that were not addressed and didn't feel they could wait another year.

We gained 7 kids – 2 moved into the county and 5 transferred from public schools.

Of those 87, 48 receive vouchers of some sort.

All but 1 preschooler stayed for kindergarten

My focus this year is on improving our academic achievements and growing enrollment via an increased marketing approach. Our Willy Wonka first day was in the Rushville Republican and the Criterion. As you probably know, we have started the strategic planning or "Roadmap to Success" program and have invited stakeholders from all different areas to join our team to determine how best to promote the school and what the school should look like.

I have challenged the School Board with these two tasks:

- 1) How can we get families to register before the end of the school year? It is difficult to order books etc. when the numbers are in a state of flux until the first day of school.
- 2) Marketing our preschool and kindergarten. Preschool numbers are down and only one preschooler this year will be moving onto kindergarten next year.