

St. Lawrence School Advisory Board Minutes  
September 19, 2022

Present: Brenda Anderson, Dena Van Lith, Susie Wendland, Ted Hendricks, Fr. Gary DeRouche, Kelly Peters, Jackie Loeschke, Barry Whipkey, Steve Hoffman

The opening prayer was recited and meeting was called to order by Father DeRouche.

New board members, Barry Whipkey, Steve Hoffman, and Jackie Loeschke were welcomed and all present at the meeting gave a short introduction.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from March 2022 by Ted Hendricks and seconded by Dina VanLith.

Father DeRouche gave an explanation of the Advisory Board. He explained that its role is to report to the principal and Father Gary in regards to feedback in the community. It is unlike a school board where members can be held liable for school decisions. He then gave an explanation of the roles of President, Vice President, and Secretary positions. The following members volunteered and were agreed upon by the board, so will assume the new roles.

President: Ted Hendricks

Vice President: Barry Whipkey

Secretary: Kelly Peters

Principal's Report:

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year (PS-6<sup>th</sup> Grade) is 120 students, which is down 13 from last year. The fifth-grade class from last year had 13 students and 7 students transferred from St. Lawrence to attend the public school for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. One fourth grader and one Kindergartener left the school. There is one new third grader. The school is down one section of 3-year-old preschool this year.

Dolly Lenards was hired as the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and is a great asset to the school. Sara Whipkey moved from teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been departmentalized. The students switch half way during the day. Mrs. Rausch is teaching math and social studies. Mrs. Cloos is teaching Science and English/Language Arts.

There have been multiple scholarships and grants offered and utilized for the 2022-2023 school year. The Kremer scholarship totaling \$10,500 was split between 9 students. The Knights of Columbus scholarship of \$500 was awarded to 1 Kindergartener. The Presentation Sisters Awarded \$750 to one student. The SDPE approved 12 applications and 1 is applying to be on the waiting list.

The theme for the school year is "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness."

A corporate benefactor donated money to assist in the purchase of new technology. There have been 20 new computers added to the lab and 21 chrome books were purchased. Keith Weber has assisted with setting up computers. Speech to text apps have been purchased for iPads for students that were in need of this assistive technology.

Student Council Report:

Each class will have an opportunity to have representatives that attend the meetings. The student council store will start on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Last year's student council members voted to have a gaga pit added to the playground.

LIFE Group Report:

The Dinner Theatre the is "Ugly Christmas Sweater" and will take place on November 11 and 12.

Old Business:

The OST program is running and has 33 children enrolled. Brenda Anderson is the Director. Sara Johnson assists. Staff members Cadence Rausch Frank works M, Tu, and Fri. Jacelyn McFarland works W/Th. Gail Adelman volunteers for a half hour after each school day. Karissa Karels approached the board at Valley Queen and they gave a grant to assist with purchasing supplies for the program.

New Business:

The Advisory board proposed meeting dates were November 14, January 9, March 13, and May 8. Ted Hendricks made a motion to change the final meeting of the year from May 8 to April 17<sup>th</sup> and all board members were in agreement to the change.

The next meeting will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

The closing prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Peters