



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from April 8, 2013

The St. Lawrence School Board met on April 8th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Laurie Batchelor, Kate Capp, Mary Lee Trapp, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouchey and Mrs. Monson. Kevin Cantine and Todd Thyne were absent.

Vice-president, Laurie Batchelor called the meeting to order. The March board meeting minutes were read. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as read.

Mrs. Monson gave the principal's report (see attachment). Mrs. Monson reported that the Dakota Step tests must be completed by April 19th. She also report that St. Lawrence will receive \$10,000 in tuition assistance from the Kremer Foundation for the 2013/2014 school year. In the 2012/2013 school year, thirteen students received tuition assistance from this foundation. The money was divided equally. Children receiving the tuition assistance must be catholic and families must meet income guidelines. The Presentation Sisters are sponsoring scholarships for the upcoming year. However, it is uncertain how long the Presentation sisters will continue to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

Teacher contracts must be given to the teachers by April 15th. The diocese wants copies of our teacher and principal contracts.

Nancy Kruger is working on the St. Lawrence School webpage. The webpage isn't complete yet but should be sometime after the gala. The website address is stlawrence.k12.sd.us

As of today, the students have one snow day to make-up. April 29th is the make-up day. If any more snow days are missed and make-up days are required, they will be added to the end of the year. The last day of school is a full day with no early out. If extra days are needed at the end of the school year, the date of the sixth grade graduation will also change.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Dockter has officially submitted her resignation. Kate asked if the board wanted to provide Mrs. Dockter with a card and plant/gift in appreciation for her years of service at St. Lawrence. The board was in agreement and will present Mrs. Dockter with the board's gift at the spring concert. Mrs. Dockter's resignation will leave the school in need of a music teacher. Mrs. Bobbi Meyer has expressed more interest in being the music teacher rather than the computer teacher. If Mrs. Meyer fills the music position, a new computer teacher will be needed. Mrs. Monson is making inquiries for the computer program.

The pre-school numbers are down. The three year old class has opening for six more students. The four year old class has room for four more students. If there are only ten children in the three year old class, there will be one class. If two or more children enroll, there will be two classes. Having only one three year old class will affect Mrs. Graf's contract. If this happens Mrs. Graf will possibly be asked to be a teacher's aide or a tutor for the time that she would normally be in the classroom. The current enrollment is (10) three year olds, (20) four year olds. The St. Lawrence pre-school tuition rate for the 2013/2014 year is \$70 T/TH and \$85 M/W/F. The tuition rate for the Emanuel pre-school is \$65 for T/TH and \$70 for M/W/F. A recommendation was given at the meeting to add the St. Lawrence School to the Big Stone Power Plant AQCS website for any children of construction workers looking for pre-school openings or school enrollment.

Mrs. Monson reported that Linda Dugaard will be visiting the school on April 26th at noon and will be reading to the second through sixth grades. Mrs. Dugaard does a book sharing with other schools. Mrs. Monson will be asking parents for gently used books to donate to the book sharing.

Speaker, Jessica Cox, will be speaking to the St. Lawrence students on May 10th, pending diocese approval. Jessica is a motivational speaker who was born without arms. Jim Gesswein is bringing her to Milbank to speak at all the schools along with an evening presentation for the community.

It was discussed that Mrs. Graf is in need of a new computer for her room. Mrs. Monson will check with the LIFE group to see if they can financially help with this. Mrs. Hagen and Mrs. Rausch might need computer equipment upgrades as well.

Fr. Gary asked the board if we've heard anything about some fifth grade parents not enrolling their children at St. Lawrence for the sixth grade. One board member had heard of a couple students saying they weren't coming back, but haven't heard anything from the parents. Sports seem to be part of the possible motivation for the talk of not returning to St. Lawrence. Discussion was then held on the benefits of a Catholic education.

Fr. Gary also reported on a conversation he had with the Bishop. Catholic schools could possibly be looking at incorporating. Schools in Watertown, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls are already incorporated. The Bishop and the diocese are looking into this matter. The principle reason for incorporation is for liability and legal protection for both the parish and school. If the school is incorporated, a lawsuit against the school wouldn't financial harm the parish and vice versa. The operation and funding of the school would not change with incorporation, and would not change the tax exempt status of the school.

Discussion was held on trying to draw students from the surrounding communities and grow our enrollment. The downside for the schools of other communities would be a decrease in state funding and the tax dollars would go to Milbank instead of their own communities. The board would like to see more children from the surrounding communities receive a Catholic education at St. Lawrence.

Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kate seconded the motion. The motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Capp, Secretary