



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from April 7, 2014

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on April 7th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Laurie Batchelor, Kevin Cantine, Kate Capp, Mary Lee Trapp, and Angie Weber. Also attending was Fr. Gary DeRouchey and Mrs. Monson. Todd Thyne was absent.

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

Mrs. Monson gave the principal's report (see attachment). Mrs. Monson stated a correction to the report. Sr. Beth Ann is coming the first Monday in June, not May.

OLD BUSINESS

The school will start the Smarter Balance testing after Easter. The tests are not timed and there have been reports from other schools that some of the tests are taking up to two hours. Students can stop testing and resume at a later time. The answers from the previous session will be saved, but students will not be able to review or change any answers. They start from where they left off and can only review/change answers in the current session. Students who complete the testing before others will need to have other types of reading/homework materials along to keep them busy and from disrupting those still testing.

The computer lab is being updated. The old equipment has been taken out, the floors and desks have been cleaned, and the new equipment is partial installed. DakTech was the company with the low bid and supplied the computers. The computers have Window 8.1 Pro and have a seven year warranty. Don Aesoph is helping to set the computers up.

Fr. Gary sent out the teacher contracts and some of the contracts have been returned but not all of them. We will be looking for at least two teacher positions as Mrs. Trapp is retiring and Mrs. Rademacher submitted her resignation. Fr. Gary has received some applications for the teaching positions but no one has been hired yet.

First Communion will be on May 3rd at the 5:00 p.m. Mass and Joyful Noise will be providing the music for the celebration.

Discussion was held on a retirement reception for Mrs. Trapp. Mrs. Monson spoke with Mrs. Trapp and Mrs. Trapp was open to the idea of having a reception. The advisory board will work with the LIFE group in planning a reception. Mrs. Trapp has taught at St. Lawrence for thirty-three years.

NEW BUSINESS

The substitute teacher pay rates were discussed. St. Lawrence hasn't increased the rates in many years, and Mrs. Monson has had people tell her they won't substitute at St. Lawrence because they feel the rates are too low. Currently our rates are \$60 per day for a degreed and \$50 per day for a non-degreed sub. The public school rates are \$90 per day for a degreed and \$80 per day for a non-degreed sub. After discussion, the board recommended that our rates increase to \$75 per day for degreed and \$65 per day for non-degreed subs. The board's recommendation will need to go before the finance council for approval. Currently, \$2,000 is budgeted for substitute pay. We will definitely exceed the budget this year. Previous amounts spent for substitute pay: 2012/2013 - \$2,100, 2011/2012 - \$1,800, and 2010/2011 - \$1,400. Teachers are given two personal days per year and can accumulate up to five. Twelve sick days are given and teachers can accumulate up to forty-eight. Teachers also have funeral leave for a spouse, children, or parents.

Most of the end-of-year field trips have been planned and dates scheduled. Field trips will start the end of April and continue into May.

Arrangements need to be made for emptying paper on the weeks when there is no school on Friday and during the summer months. A family had volunteered to empty the paper but is no longer doing it. Kate asked for a sign-up sheet to be made for the summer months.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Kate Capp, Secretary*

*All school council meeting dates are published in the bulletin and listed on the parish website. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

For a Better You (th)