



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from April 13, 2015

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on April 13th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Laurie Batchelor, Kate Capp, Nancy Kruger, Jason Street, Angie Weber, and Melissa Wheeler. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouchey, Sr. Beth Ann Dillion, and Darby Helms. Brian Gresens was absent.

Sr. Beth Ann opened the meeting with prayer and Laurie called the meeting to order. The March meeting minutes were read. Two corrections to the minutes were made. The total for the CUF raffle was corrected and Sr. Beth Ann contacted the state fire marshal. Angie made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Principal's Report & Agenda - see attached. Sr. Beth Ann reported that Wednesday was a good day for the Stations of the Cross. The students seemed more settled and reflective during the middle of the week. The third grade class had their pizza party that they earned for being the top selling class in the CUF raffle.

OLD BUSINESS

The Smarter Balance testing has begun and is ongoing. There have only been a couple of small glitches. One of our students was not on the state's list but that has been corrected. The teachers say the testing is going well and is taking approximately two hours for most students.

After the state fire inspection, the door stops have been removed from the classrooms. Fr. Gary spoke with Dennis Adelman about the problem with the cement by the gym door. The music room is the only classroom left that hasn't practiced an evacuation for a fire drill, and a tornado drill will also be conducted for the school.

The health talk will be given to fifth and sixth grade students with parental permission. Sr. Beth Ann and Dr. Denna will be presenting the information to the students in May.

It was asked if the school has had any more bullying concerns. Sr. Beth Ann said that there is a Co-operative Circle program online which teachers are doing within the classrooms for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

Sr. Beth Ann contacted the greenery company about the overbilling on shipping costs and the school will be receiving credit for one delivery truck. She also reported that the school can receive a higher profit percentage if our entire order is submitted in September.

NEW BUSINESS

Sr. Beth Ann reported that only seven families applied for the Presentation Sisters scholarships but seventeen families were eligible. Last year St. Lawrence families received four of the scholarships. The Kremer grant money was also discussed. Sr. Beth Ann is sending the information letter out tomorrow. The family income threshold is \$45,000 so quite a few families can apply but they must provide a copy of their IRS 1040 form. A discussion was then held on outstanding tuition. There are 18 students (13 families) that are behind in tuition payments. There is approximately \$15,000 in past due tuition. Some of these families are not applying for available scholarships or grant money. Some families are also rolling over past due tuition from prior years. Discussion was held on different options to collect the outstanding amounts. Sr. Beth Ann is hopeful that some families will get caught up after they receive their income tax refunds. Sr. Beth Ann will give the council a tuition update at the May meeting.

The 2015/2016 school calendar is almost finalized. School is starting a little later this year and there won't be as many days off in October as there was in past years. St. Lawrence will have registration on two days but pictures will only be available one day and will most likely be the first day of registration. The photography company will only come one day but there is a picture make-up day in September.

As of today, there are thirteen children registered for kindergarten. In the registration for pre-school classes, there is an issue with the majority of the parents wanting morning classes. Current parishioners have the first opportunity for registration. It was discussed how to best handle parents' requests. Mrs. Graf cannot always accommodate parent preferences as the St. Lawrence pre-school strives for balanced classes for the best learning and development of the children.

The contracts have been given to the teachers. Teachers have until the end of the month to accept or decline their contract. Two contracts have already been returned and no official resignations have been submitted at this time. Sr. Beth Ann does not have a contract.

It was asked if the school would consider adding Spanish to the curriculum. It was also asked if there is anyone available to help Hispanic families if they choose to enroll their children at St. Lawrence. We currently have some parishioners who work with the Hispanic population and there might be some Spanish speaking individuals who are willing to help out if needed.

A clarification was asked for on the dress code. Sr. Beth Ann reported that capris are allowed for girls but not for boys. Shorts of appropriate length are allowed after May 1st. No "short" shorts are allowed and no shorts with writing on rear are allowed.

There have been bad words found on the playground equipment but they are being sanded off.

At this time, approximately 80 gala tickets have been sold.

The advisory council provides ice cream for the spring program. Laurie will purchase nine pails and toppings. The council members will help serve.

Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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.