



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from August 17, 2015

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on August 17th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Kate Capp, Nancy Kruger, Jason Street, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Brenda Anderson and Fr. Gary DeRouchey.

The meeting began with a prayer and Fr. Gary called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and items were added to old and new business. The minutes from the May meeting were read. Jason made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Angie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Officer elections were postponed until the next meeting when at least one more member is added to the council. Mrs. Anderson will look for someone who is willing to serve. Since the 2014/2015 school year, Laurie Batchelor, Brian Gresens, and Melissa Wheeler resigned their positions. Council members generally serve for a three year term. Angie Weber stated that she has already served six years but is willing to serve one more year.

Principal's Report & Agenda – see attached. Mrs. Anderson reported that registration went well and gave individual class enrollment numbers. Discussion was held on the current sixth grade class. Nine students left St. Lawrence to attend school elsewhere, leaving only seven remaining students. Ideas and suggestions were discussed to help retain students. The teachers are also discussing ideas. Mrs. Anderson reported that the scholarship money has been distributed. All staff positions have been filled except for a janitor. This summer, Julie Landmark, Sara Johnson, and Brenda & Devin Anderson helped with the school cleaning.

OLD BUSINESS

An update was given on families with past due tuition. Fr. Gary reported that almost all of it has been collected. Two families have rolled over a balance to the current year. The tuition is being computerized so when a payment is made, parents will receive a receipt showing the remaining balance. Fr. Gary reported that the school's budget will be almost \$10,000 short with the students from fifth grade leaving.

Mrs. Anderson followed up on potential new students. There was a misunderstanding about the tuition amount for the family and the parents didn't feel they could afford tuition this year. All the current scholarship money has been allocated so that wasn't an option for the family this school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Technology updates have been made to the church/school. There is a new phone system that allows all teachers to have their own voicemail. The phones in the classrooms have a light which will flash when there is a new message. During class, the phones will be set to automatically go to voicemail to prevent the phones from ringing in the rooms. Julie will have a cordless unit to carry

when she's away from her desk, and the rectory will also be connected to the phone system as well. A new sound system has been installed in the gym. The L.I.F.E. group made a donation towards the purchase of the gym sound system. The school now has wireless internet. So far the teachers are the only ones with passwords to the internet. Eventually, students might have passwords but security and firewalls need to be checked before that happens. In the future, it will be possible to FaceTime masses. It will allow for individuals to view funerals, weddings, grandparents mass, etc. It will also allow for the use of chrome books by students. Fr. Gary has been in communication with Mr. Snaza. The Milbank Middle School students are using chrome books. Fr. Gary and Mrs. Anderson have been looking into the option of purchasing approximately 20 chrome books for St. Lawrence. The chrome books cost \$179.00 each and the L.I.F.E. group will be asked if they can donate some money towards the purchase. The chrome books will stay at the school and will not go home with the students. It was asked what happens if a student needs to complete an assignment but doesn't have access to the internet. If/when that situation occurs a solution will need to be found. With the wireless internet, it was asked if St. Lawrence can be connected to the public school's parent portal. Mrs. Anderson will inquire if it is possible and see if there is any associated fee. The L.I.F.E. group purchased two laptop computers for teachers.

Fr. Gary reported that the school foundation has received a memorial which is run through the diocese. The memorial will take approximately three years before it is fully funded. It will help to keep tuition low and help to take care of the school's needs - not wants.

A question was asked about the school's open house being held on a Saturday night, along with the outdoor mass. It was asked if there would be enough time for families to enjoy the potluck supper & socializing after mass and still make it to the open house. A concern from a family who didn't think Saturday was the best night for the open house was received by a council member. Mrs. Anderson stated that it was hard to pick a good night for the open house as school is starting on a Monday this year. Plus, the outdoor mass is scheduled a week later due to the diocese's legacy events. Fr. Gary also stated that he doesn't like the open house being on a Sunday as it is a family day and it forces the teachers to work on Sunday.

Mrs. Anderson reported on the diocese in-service that she and the teachers attended. She felt it was not as motivational as it could have been. She felt it could have been more inspirational with a better variety of speakers.

With Mrs. Anderson teaching pre-school in the afternoons and holding the principal's position, it was asked what plan was in place if something urgent comes up while she is in the classroom. If Mrs. Anderson needs to attend to something immediately, Julie would supervise the preschoolers. Fr. Gary also stated that he is more available in the afternoons and can be at the school to address an issue if needed.

Mrs. Anderson gave council members an updated school calendar as the previous one had some errors – see attached.

Fr. Gary will be gone September 22nd – 29th to see the Pope.

A new logo for the school has been designed. It uses the same colors and parents do not need to purchase new shirts for mass. Clothing with the new logo is available if parents wish to purchase any.

The council meeting date was discussed. In the past, the meetings have either been on the first or second Monday of the month. After discussion, it was decided to keep the meetings on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Jason 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.