



## ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from December 9, 2013

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on December 9th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Laurie Batchelor, Kate Capp, Todd Thyne, Mary Lee Trapp, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouchey and Mrs. Monson. Kevin Cantine was absent.

President, Todd Thyne, called the meeting to order. The November council 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). In addition to the principal's report, Mrs. Monson stated that December seems like a good time for the book fair. Many people bought books for Christmas presents. Police Chief, Boyd VanVooren, challenged the 5th graders to raise money for Mrs. Anderson. When the challenge ended, Chief VanVooren took the class to the bank to count the money and then treated them to ice cream at Triple Dip. Chief VanVooren also spends some time with the kids during lunch and recess.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The school has received approximately \$1,600 from the diocese to upgrade our security system. It took a face to face visit from Mrs. Monson to obtain the funding. The upgrade will most likely occur after the first of the year.

We have one family in the school that still doesn't have a legal exemption from immunizations on file with the state. The other families have a doctor's signed statement stating there are medical reasons why the children have not been immunized.

Mrs. Monson gave an update on Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Volkenant. Mrs. Anderson has been doing well with her treatments so far and remains very upbeat and positive. Barb Thompson has been extremely accommodating in substituting whenever needed. Mrs. Volkenant's son is improving but has a long recovery ahead. The students have made cards and have been praying for both families.

Mrs. Monson reported that most schools are experiencing parental concerns about the Common Core testing. At the Christian schools meeting which Mrs. Monson attended, the Christian schools have agreed and will stand together to protect the morality of a Christian education. Teachers will be able to view the questions on the test when the students are taking them. The Bishop has responded to the Common Core program and his response is on the diocese website. Bishop Swain

has not made any definitive answer on whether or not to use the testing. It's a wait and see attitude for most Christian schools.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The United Catholic raffle will start on January 10th and sales will continue until March 2nd. St. Lawrence is very fortunate to be chosen to participate in the raffle as not all schools are able to. The school usually sells and receives about \$12,000. If the parish had a council, we would be able to qualify for more matching funds. The parish receives \$25 from every life insurance policy sold. St. Charles in Big Stone City has the closest council. Kate will speak with Candee Cloos to see what it takes for a parish to establish a council. Having a council would benefit both the parish and school. Catholic schools week starts on January 25th.

The computer lab needs to be updated. Approximately seventeen towers need to be replaced and new software installed. The school wants towers for easier networking capabilities. Fr. Gary spoke with the diocese to see if we can buy in bulk with other organizations. Mrs. Monson will also check with the public school to see if we can place a combined order to save money.

On December 9th, 2013, Mrs. Monson submitted her official resignation in writing and presented it to Fr. Gary and the advisory council. Mrs. Monson said that she has been with the school for a total of nineteen years, and it has been an honor to be at St. Lawrence. Mrs. Monson's resignation will take effect at the end of her contract for the 2013-2014 school year. Fr. Gary will notify the diocese and an official search for a new principal can begin. Bishop Swain has the ultimate authority to hire a new principal. However, he can choose to accept Fr. Gary's recommendation or he could turn the decision over to Fr. Gary if he chooses to do so. Laurie has heard of an individual in the parish who has expressed interest in the position. Interested persons will need to contact Fr. Gary for qualifications, etc.

A parent contacted Fr. Gary about the Script program. The Script program sells business gift certificates and the businesses return a percentage to the organization. The council felt if St. Lawrence School tried the program, it would need to be kept locally. Council members recognized that the Script program works well in larger communities, but in a smaller community it is more difficult. Local businesses are already donating to the parish/school and many other charitable organizations. The council made no decision or recommendation on the Script program.

The gala is set for April 25th, 2014.

Mary Lee will prepare a meat and cheese tray for the teaching staff. She will take it to the school after the Christmas break, either on the 2nd or 3rd of January.

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

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kate Capp, Secretary*