



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from Feb. 3, 2014

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on February 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Kevin Cantine, Kate Capp, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouche and Mrs. Monson. Laurie Batchelor, Todd Thyne, and Mary Lee Trapp were absent. There was no January meeting due to bad weather.

Member, Kevin Cantine, called the meeting to order. The December council meeting minutes were read. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes and Fr. Gary 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 spoke with the computer teacher at St. Mary's in Dell Rapids to help Ann Tuchscherer with the computer curriculum. Also, due to R.E. classes on Wednesday night, there will be no teacher conferences scheduled after 5:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

The security system company was supposed to be here this week, but wasn't able to make it due to employee turnover and bad weather this winter. They said they will be at the school on Feb. 10th or 11th.

The United Catholic Raffle is underway. Mrs. Monson reported the school is about a ¼ of the way to reaching our goal, but a lot of tickets are still out. Tickets were sold after coffee and rolls on Sunday and volunteers are needed to sell tickets after all of the Masses. Kate spoke with Candee Cloos on what it would take to have a council in Milbank. Fifty adult members are needed to have a council. Having a council within the parish would be a good financial benefit to the school, R.E. program, and youth group. There are several other fundraising options available to the parish/school if we have a council. Currently about twenty individuals from Milbank are part of the Big Stone council. It was discussed to have Candee speak to the LIFE group about products available. There are inexpensive ways to join United Catholic and to increase the numbers required to form a council.

Mrs. Monson and Fr. Gary have requested Don Aesoph and Kathy Tyler to quote pricing on computer towers and a server for our computer lab. The equipment upgrade might not happen until the summer.

Fr. Gary reported that he spoke with Bishop Swain in reference to hiring a religious sister to fill the principal's position. Permission must be obtained from the Bishop to bring in a religious sister, and Bishop Swain consented to Fr. Gary's request. Fr. Gary has contacted a couple of religious orders

from outside of the diocese to see if anyone is interested in the principal's position. Fr. Gary stated that having a religious sister as a principal would be a short term arrangement – possibly up to three years. This would allow someone from the school or parish the time needed to obtain the credentials for the principal's position.

Mrs. Monson reported that the school's accreditation information is close to being completed. One new thing to our accreditation is an anti-bullying policy. The school is now 100% compliant on immunizations. Teachers must submit a sample lesson plan; have a background check on file, as well as proof of their teaching certificate. The state also requires a fire-proof file cabinet, which the school has. Mrs. Monson plans to have all of the information compiled and ready to send to the state by the end of the week.

NEW BUSINESS

Preschool/Kindergarten registration is set for Feb. 12th. The perspective numbers look good for the preschool classes. Based on feedback from parents, the kindergarten class should have a nice number of students also. Registration packets went home with preschool families who said they would be enrolling their child. Each year, Mrs. Monson sends a letter to the parents of every perspective five year old in the parish about the school.

The Presentation scholarships are still being offered this year. Last year, three families from St. Lawrence received scholarships. The Presentation scholarships are not based solely on financial need, but it is taken into consideration. The K.C.'s will also be offering tuition scholarships. Mrs. Monson reported that the scholarships have allowed a few families to remain at the school when it wouldn't have been financial possible otherwise.

On January 27, 2014, Debbie Trapp officially submitted her resignation to Fr. Gary and the council. Her resignation will take place at the end of the 2013/2014 school year. Mrs. Trapp will be hard to replace. The council discussed the strengths and skills Mrs. Trapp instills in her students and hiring a teacher with similar teaching values is important. Fr. Gary and Mrs. Monson will be searching for a new 5th Grade teacher. No other teacher resignations are expected at this time. Teacher contracts are sent out in April.

The tuition rates for the 2014-2015 year are as follows: Preschool rates will remain unchanged from the 2013-2014 school year, Kindergarten \$1,150.00, First Grade \$1,250.00, Second – Sixth Grades \$1,350.00, family cap \$3,250.00. Tuition rates will increase \$50.00 from last year to cover a pay raise for the teachers.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Capp, Secretary

*All school council meetings dates are published in the bulletin and listed on the parish website. Next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.