



## ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from May 11, 2015

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on May 11th, 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 Brenda Anderson, Darby Helms, and Carrie Novy. Fr. Gary DeRouchey and Brian Gresens were absent.

Sr. Beth Ann opened the meeting with prayer and Laurie called the meeting to order. The April minutes were read. Two corrections to the minutes were made. The number of registered kindergarten students was correct to 13 and Fr. Gary does not have a contract. Jason made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Angie seconded the motion. The motion pass.

Principal's Report & Agenda – see attached. Sr. Beth Ann told council members that she is being transferred. She was hoping to stay at St. Lawrence for at least three years but due to a terminal health condition of a fellow sister, Sr. Beth Ann along with six other sisters in her order are being transferred to other locations. Sister told the council how much she enjoys being here and hopes she has served the school well. Sister's last day at St. Lawrence will be May 27th.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Nine out of ten of the teacher contracts have been signed and returned.

Five families (eight students) have applied for the Kremer scholarship money. With eight students, the school should be able to use the full \$10,000 scholarship amount. The money will be divided among the eight students. For families who exceeded the income requirement of the Kremer scholarship, but are in need of tuition assistance, can still apply for a Knights of Columbus scholarship but they must submit a request on their own behalf. A request cannot come from school's office or someone else.

Sr. Beth Ann gave an update on the outstanding tuition. Twelve students still have significant amounts due. The past due tuition has decreased from \$17,000 to \$11,000. It was asked if the school could hold a student's records and report card until the tuition was paid. Sr. Beth Ann said that it was an option but it would be up to Fr. Gary.

The health talk will be given to the 5th and 6th grade students on May 14th. Permission letter have been sent to the parents. Parents are welcome to attend. Moms will go with their daughters and dads will go with their sons. The talk will only be about body changes.

The 2015-2016 school calendar has been updated and is ready to be listed on the SLS website.

It was asked when the Smarter Balance test results would be available. The results won't be available until September. Sr. Beth Ann thinks the school did pretty well on the testing. The state receives federal funding based on the test assessments.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Sr. Beth Ann reported on the potential of seven new students. One family from Ortonville toured the school and another family from Missouri is interested in the school.

Questions were asked about what it takes to be a Blue Ribbon school. First of all, enrollment must be 100 students in K – 6th grades (pre-school students do not count in enrollment). We currently have 95 students in K – 6th. The school must have qualified teachers, the school must have a high GPA average and academic excellence. Plus, the school must have three or four event awards. The event awards could be a spelling bee, poetry contest, presidential fitness award, etc. Sr. Beth Ann thinks the Blue Ribbon status is very attainable for St. Lawrence if we can increase our enrollment and add a few more events.

A council member has received concerns from two pre-school parents who are not receiving the school newsletters. Mrs. Graf has been sending the newsletters out, but parents should contact the office to make sure their email address is on the list and correct. Only one more newsletter will be sent this year.

It was asked if Fr. Gary has started a principal search yet. Fr. Gary found out about Sister's transfer on the 5th of May and left town on the 7th so he hasn't had time to do much yet. The council asked if it was going to be a full-time position and what the search process entailed. Since Fr. Gary wasn't able to be at the meeting, members were hoping that Fr. Gary would hold a special meeting with the council to answer search procedure questions. The secretary will send an email request to Father. It was reported at the meeting that there are people interested in applying for the principal's position. A search for a first-grade teacher may also be needed in the future but no resignation has been received.

A question was asked about the requirement of council member meeting attendance and/or lack of attendance. Sr. Beth Ann stated that if a council member misses three meetings it could be considered abandonment of position.

No council officer elections were held for the 2014-2015 school year. It was suggested that the election of council president, vice-president, and secretary be postponed until the new 2015-2016 school year begins in August. Laurie stated that she has served on the council for six years and would like to resign her position. Angie is undecided and Kate stated that she is willing to stay on the board but is resigning from the secretary's position.

Nancy 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 meeting dates are published in the bulletin and listed on the parish website.