



## ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from Oct. 14, 2013

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on October 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Kevin Cantine, Kate Capp, Todd Thyne, Mary Lee Trapp, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouchev and Mrs. Monson. Laurie Batchelor was absent.

President, Todd Thyne called the meeting to order. The September council meeting minutes were read. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes and Kevin 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 Mrs. Monson's report, she stated that the Christmas program has been moved to December 18th instead of the 11th. Kate inquired about the grandparent's Mass and asked if the sixth grade could have reserved seating in the first few rows of the church. At this year's grandparent Mass the back of the church was packed and the front of the church was empty. Having the sixth grade students and grandparents/parents sit in the front could help eliminate the problem. The school should receive around a \$1,000 from the School Mall fundraiser. A couple of individuals chose to donate directly to the school instead of purchasing magazines. The Christmas Greenery fundraiser is underway and the class with the highest sales will have a small party, and the top fundraisers in each class will be recognized with a small reward. The Circle of Grace program has been completed by students.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

It will cost over \$1,000 for the security upgrade needed by the school. Mrs. Monson is checking to see if the diocese has any funds available. No funds are available through Homeland Security as all their allotted money for 2013 has been used. The new security upgrade will no longer be on the computer system which will be an improvement. In the event of a power outage, the system will still lock the doors but the system will need to be reset to work with the buzzers.

Mrs. Monson attended a Broom Tree retreat with other Catholic school principals and religious education directors. She reported that it was a very spiritual retreat and covered some educational topics.

We currently have only one preschool opening available. St. Lawrence gained about four preschoolers after the school year started.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Angie gave an update on the mystery dinner theater. Ticket sales are down from last year. There are 160 tickets for each show. So far only 80+ tickets are sold for Friday night and 90+ tickets are sold for Saturday night. There is still a week to sell tickets so hopefully more will be sold. For the

social hour, theater type foods will be served and Amy VanLith is making the dessert for the meal.

Parent/teacher conferences will start at 2:00 p.m. on October 21st. Most of the conferences will be done on the 21st with a few held on Wednesday the 23rd. Any Wednesday conferences will need to be complete by 4:45 p.m. so that the rooms are ready for the R.E. classes.

Two parents have expressed concerned over the Common Core testing standards that have been developed. The Common Core standards have been developed by educators and psychologists in 45 states. The goal of Common Core is to develop a standard/guideline of education within the states (example: If a student moved from South Dakota to Texas, the student should be at the level determined by the Common Core standards in both states.) Common Core does not dictate the curriculum, text books, or how the material is presented in the schools. St. Lawrence has been using the Dakota Step testing, and will be using the Smart Balance testing this year to transition into the Common Core testing next year. The Common Core testing is done all online. Parental concerns arise from the possibility of too much government involvement in the testing, keeping and maintaining a Catholic identity, and the potential for test questions portraying an immoral life style. The school must do testing to keep our accreditation but there are other testing options available. If the school choses a different form of testing other than the one provided by the state, the school must pay for the testing. The council asked numerous questions about Common Core and Mrs. Monson had written information available for council members. The council asked if Fr. Gary or Mrs. Monson could look at the questions asked on the test before the test was given to the students. Only examples of test questions can be viewed to maintain the integrity of the test results.

Our accreditation is coming up this year in December. Part of our accreditation is that all students must be immunized. The state allows exceptions for students that have allergic reactions to immunizations and have a doctor's signature. The other is that immunizations are against a religious belief such as a Jehovah Witness. Currently there are about four families at the school that have not immunized their children or are not current with immunizations. Mrs. Monson has notified the families.

Officer elections were due to be held. No one was interested in running for a position so the current officers will remain in their positions for another year. Officers are Todd Thyne - president, Laurie Batchelor – vice-president, Kate Capp – Secretary.

Kate mentioned that a Eucharist minister brought to her attention that some of students are not being as reverent with the Eucharist as they should be. Some of the students are not saying "Amen" or are trying to take the host instead of waiting for it to be placed in their hands. The individual asked if a reminder could be given to the students. Fr. Gary will be in the classrooms this week and will give the students a refresher on the proper way to receive the Holy Eucharist.

The next school advisory council meeting is scheduled for November 11th at 6:30 p.m. Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kate Capp, Secretary*