



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from October 12, 2015

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on October 12th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Kate Capp, Nancy Kruger, Jason Street, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Brenda Anderson, Fr. Gary DeRouchey, Darby Helms, Sandra Fonder, and Dena VanLith.

The meeting began with a prayer and Mrs. Anderson called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and items added to old and new business. The minutes from the August meeting were read. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sandra Fonder has volunteered to serve on the advisory council. With a new member, officer elections were held. Nancy made a motion to nominate Jason Street for president. Angie seconded the motion. Jason accepted the nomination and was elected as president. Angie made a motion to nominate Nancy for secretary. Nancy declined the nomination. Angie made a motion to nominate Sandra for secretary. Kate seconded the motion. Sandra accepted the nomination and was elected as secretary. Kate volunteered to take minutes for this meeting with Sandra starting in November.

Principal's Report & Agenda – see attached. Mrs. Anderson reported that the Chromebooks have been ordered. LIFE has agreed to pay the remaining balance which will be either \$1,855 or \$1,355 depending on if the school receives a grant from Catholic United Financial.

The Mystery Theater was another success with 256 tickets sold. The baskets raised \$3,846 this year compared to \$1,915 last year. Some basket tickets were sold after the grandparent Mass. A suggestion was made to sell basket tickets after weekend Masses. Fr. Gary stated if that happens in the future, the baskets need to be displayed in a classy way – on tables, with table cloths – not sitting on the ground.

The Book Fair raised \$2,000 and the school will receive 60% of sales in books for the library and classrooms. Grandparents purchased quite a few books after Mass. Suggestions for next year were to have the tables set up in the gym, have a separate checkout table, and have a teacher wish list.

The grandparents' Mass was well attended. Grandparents liked the Mass and dinner theater on the same weekend – especially those from out of town. Grandparents traveling from a distance were able to attend both without having to choose between the two or travel two weekends in a row.

The class service projects are underway. A future suggestion for the 6th grade class is to visit and collect supplies for the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House in Sioux Falls.

Students in 3rd-6th grades will be using Reading Plus. It's an online, supplemental program to help increase reading comprehension, speed, etc. The program has the potential to increase a student's reading by one level. The 5th & 6th grades will use the Chromebooks and 3rd & 4th grades will use the computer lab for the program.

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Gary provided the council with a budget report – see attached. The accounts are set up by the diocese and the account names/descriptions aren't able to be changed by the parish so Fr. Gary went through the report and explained what types of income went into each account. The school's funding ratio is right at 50/50 with the school providing slightly more than 50% of its funding. Fr. Gary reported that the budget will be tighter this year as the budget was prepared before nine students left sixth grade. With Mrs. Anderson working as part-time teacher and principal, it helps with some of the budget shortfall.

An update was requested on the Smile Amazon cash back program and if it needs to be promoted more before the holidays. St. Lawrence is listed as one of the organizations to receive cash back on purchases. Fr. Gary reported that Amazon wants St. Lawrence's bank account information to receive the funds. Fr. Gary is not comfortable with giving that type of information out. Mrs. Anderson is going to check to see if the funds could be added to a business credit card instead. There is going to be changes made to the Target red card program. Schwan's also has a cash back program. Mrs. Anderson will check into the Schwan's program and will also check to see if Shopko has any type of cash back program. Shady Beach is expanding its "dine and donate" program. The school has picked at least eight days when 12% of the food & drink sales are donated back to the school. Diners must say what organization they want the money donated to. Right now, the only dine and donate night is Sunday but it is expanding to Thursday nights also. Last quarter, the school received approximately \$140 from the program.

Two custodians have been hired. Jason Fraasch has been hired full-time to clean the school. Marvin Powell has been hired part-time to clean the church and help in the school as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Dena VanLith told the council that her husband, Mark, is willing to pick up the greenery order from Sleepy Eye when it's ready and will donate his time. The board accepted the VanLith's offer. The greenery usually arrives the week before Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the school is going to start practicing lockdown safety drills. The chief of police will meet with the staff on November 9th. As part of preparation for a lock-down event, a secondary location needs to be chosen. Students and staff will be transferred to a secondary location for parents to meet and pick up students if a serious lock-down situation occurs. Practice drills will start in November.

A parish member won movie tickets at the Gala and re-gifted them back to the school. Mrs. Anderson asked what should be done with the tickets. After suggestions and discussion, it was decided to add the tickets to the Mardi Gras raffle.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Kate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy 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.