



ST. LAWRENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES from September 8, 2014

The St. Lawrence School Advisory Council met on September 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Laurie Batchelor, Kate Capp, Brian Gresens, Nancy Kruger, Jason Street, Angie Weber, and Melissa Wheeler. Also attending were Fr. Gary DeRouchey, Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, and religious education coordinator, Darby Helms.

Sr. Beth Ann opened the meeting with prayer. New council members, Brian Gresens, Nancy Kruger, Jason Street, and Melissa Wheeler were welcomed and all council members introduced themselves. Council members reviewed and signed a Code of Ethics prepared by Sr. Beth Ann.

The May council meeting minutes were read. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes, Laurie seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as read.

Sr. Beth Ann gave the principal's report (see attachment).

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Gary was asked if he knew the final net profit from the gala. Fr. Gary did not have the information with him.

NEW BUSINESS

Sr. Beth Ann reported on some of the changes that have been implemented since her arrival. One example - the student body begins the day with prayer in the gym, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Group prayer is also said before lunch, after recess, and before dismissal.

Sr. Beth Ann spoke about mainstreaming records and information in the office and used the medical records as an example. School nurse, Wade Fraasch will help organize student immunization and medical records.

Sr. Beth Ann also spoke of the dedication of the teaching staff and striving for St. Lawrence to become a "Blue Ribbon" school. A Blue Ribbon school has international certification and must meet specified criteria.

The school has received the Kremer tuition scholarship. The scholarship grant was in the amount of \$11,400. Also, the Knights of Columbus have provided a \$500 tuition scholarship to a student for the current school year. Sr. Beth Ann has experience in fundraising will be searching for other organizations/foundations that offer financial help to Catholic schools.

Sr. Beth Ann was asked to join a Smarter Balance testing panel and she has agreed. On Oct. 6th, she will participate in a webinar. She also reported that the entire 2013-2014 sixth grade class tested at least proficient in math and science in the Dakota Step testing.

The Knights of Columbus school kick off picnic raised \$3,041 for the school. The money will go into the school's general operating fund.

Items on the Giving Tree not purchased, will be purchased by the L.I.F.E group. Darby reported that the L.I.F.E. group has already purchased \$500 worth of toner for the computer lab.

Discussion was held on the "no peanut" policy of the school. The policy was implemented for the safety and well-being of those with peanut allergies. Currently there is one student and two teachers with peanut allergies at St. Lawrence. Some of the council members have been contacted by other parents with concerns about what food will be substituted if peanut butter sandwiches aren't allowed for cold and hot lunch. St. Lawrence has contacted the public school about our no peanut policy and the public school lunch program will substitute another food for peanut butter sandwiches. It was also discussed if all parish functions should follow a no peanut policy. Fr. Gary stated that the parish is not adopting the no peanut policy at this time. Nancy asked that the no peanut policy be equally enforced for the entire student body.

Fr. Gary provided the council with the 2014 school budget. The parish/school funding ratio is right at 50%. This is the ratio recommended by the Bishop. Four years ago, the parish funding ratio was around 70% so the school has made good funding improvements in the last few years. With the improved ratio, Fr. Gary would like to look at increasing teacher salaries as Catholic school teachers are generally paid substantially less than public school teachers.

Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa 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.