



## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES from November 12, 2012

The St. Lawrence School Board met on November 12th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Member in attendance were Kevin Cantine, Kate Capp, Todd Thyne, Mary Lee Trapp, and Angie Weber. Also attending were Fr. Gary De Rouchey, and Principal Sherry Monson. Laurie Batchelor was absent. Parent, Darin Snaza, sat in on the meeting.

The October board meeting minutes were read and Mary Lee made a motion to approve the minutes, Kate seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Sherry Monson gave the Principal's report (see attachment). Mrs. Monson added to her report that the school received \$615.20 from paper recycling and \$957.77 from the School Mall program. She also reported that a family who expressed interest in attending St. Lawrence has decided to enroll at the Ortonville School.

### Old Business

The dinner theater was successful this year and well attended both nights. Saturday night was sold out and Friday's show had only about 20 unsold tickets. The profit from the play was \$10,047.17. This is a good fundraiser for the school and definitely worth continuing. The L.I.F.E. group will have a recap and will start working on the play for 2013.

The Christmas greenery is due in on Saturday, November 11th. Mrs. Monson will be notifying parents of pick up time by email. The school sold approximately \$11,000. The school's estimated net profit should be between \$6,000 - \$7,000. Sales were down slightly from the previous year.

### New Business

Looking ahead towards the 2013-2014 school year, the tuition was on the agenda. Discussion was held on funding ratios. St. Lawrence's funding ratio reported by Fr. Gary is approximately 58.9% parish funded, which is a decrease from previous years. Other Catholic schools in the diocese such as Sioux Falls and Pierre have less parish funding, but those schools also have higher enrollment, higher tuition, and larger fundraisers. St. Lawrence School has a tuition cap for family with three or more children enrolled in K thru 6. Mrs. Monson reported that she heard no complaints on last year's raise in tuition. Tuition rates will be discussed at a later date.

It was asked if the school is being promoted in other local communities in addition to Milbank. One suggestion made was if a new family was referred to and enrolled at St. Lawrence, the referring family would receive a tuition credit. There was also a suggestion to develop a committee or group who would be willing to reach out to parents of young children to help develop and grow a bond to the St. Lawrence parish and school. The goal would be to foster a relationship with these

families so they would consider the St. Lawrence School as their first enrollment option. Along with support and promotion of the school, Angie asked Fr. Gary what his position was in regards to the support of the St. Lawrence School. Fr. Gary responded that if it were up to him, he would close all Catholic schools in the diocese. More discussion was then held on the mutually beneficial relationship between a parish and school.

Mrs. Monson reported that Nancy Kruger has volunteered to maintain a website specifically for the school. However, there are concerns regarding internet safety issues, fire walls, etc. There are also additional ongoing fees associated with a separate website. There may be other sites available to use that the parish and school are currently using without additional fees.

Mary Lee brought up the under-use of the gym. She asked if the gym could be rented out without paying the additional insurance fee required by the diocese. Fr. Gary stated that as long as it was a parish function and open to the entire parish, there is no other insurance fee required. However, there needs to be adult supervision if it is a youth activity. Mrs. Monson also stated that the gym floor needs to be waxed.

Teacher/Principal compensated was tabled to a later date.

Kindergarten registration will be sometime in February or March.

Todd called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie made a motion to adjourn, Mary Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kate Capp, Secretary*

