

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2009
ST. HILARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Present: Dr. Patricia Nugent, Father Steve, Karen Alestock, Lou Camerato, Todd Stock, Maura Bozzelli, Molly Scantling, Dan Sollenberger, Bonnie Monteleone, Barry Thoman

Also Present: Debbie Sinopoli, Jean Hohfelder, Bunny Oldham

Fr. Steve opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with a prayer.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Father Steve reported that Father Joe will be installed as pastor at Blessed Trinity Parish on Sunday, December 6, 2009. On that same day, Father Frank Basa will be joining St. Hilary as the Senior Associate Pastor. Father Basa is the former pastor of Christ the King Parish and the former administrator of St. Martha Parish.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Nugent reported that she and Mrs. Alestock attended the three-day Leadership Conference for the Cleveland Diocese. Among other topics discussed, there was discussion at the conference about the closure and/or merger of high schools and elementary schools in the diocese due to declining enrollment.

The school has returned to typical levels of absences for illnesses among students and teachers (16-18 per day) from a high in October of approximately 100 students and 3-4 teachers per day.

One-Call reminders have been made for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences and no school on November 12 and 13.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Lou Camerato reported that he is finishing up work on the necessary budget modifications to the 2009-2010 parish budget so that the budget will remain balanced. It is also important that the parish begin to operate with a surplus to build the "rainy day fund" to cover unexpected needs. It is important that all parishioners fulfill their Stewardship campaign pledges.

In November, work will begin on the 2010-2011 budget for presentation to the Finance Committee in January 2010. Once again, efforts will be made to consolidate as many school fee payments and Parents' Association dues as possible into the tuition payment.

Due to large and frequent variances in the reported inventory and sales of STAR cards, the decision has been made to stop the sale of STAR cards, effective November 16, 2009. Instead, ORDERS and payments for STAR cards will be accepted after every mass and during the week through the offertory and backpack to the school office and parish office. Orders will be filled through the week and available for pick-up in the parish office during business hours on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays or after masses on the weekend.

Due to changes in accounting and the need for more internal controls, the Business Office will also begin collecting all payments for Latchkey services.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was not a separate report from the President, Dan Sollenberger, other than New Business.

MARKETING REPORT

Debbie Sinopoli reported that a new ad campaign will run from December through February to support the registration process which will begin in February. Ads will also appear in the church bulletins of our cluster parishes.

Due to the current economic circumstances, local preschools are experiencing a decline in enrollment, which is attributed to relocations for employment. The next Kindergarten Kaleidoscope is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2010.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Alestock reported that the committee has been meeting to create an outline of the events that will be scheduled for the 2010-2011 school year. The committee plans to raise the funds necessary to pay for the costs of each event.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

Jean Hohlefelder reported that all of the tickets for the 200 Raffle have been sold and the first drawing was held on Saturday, October 17, 2009.

Under Karen Martin's direction, the Celebration committees are working hard for the upcoming fundraiser in March.

There were some safety issues that occurred during the Early Dismissal on October 13, 2009, which will need to be addressed before the next Early Dismissal Day. Primarily, cars were moving through the parking lot in directions that was dangerous for the students.

Catholic Schools Week is scheduled for January 24-30, 2010. Parents' Association will kick off the week on Monday morning with an activity for the students and will also hold the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, January 27, 2010.

The Parents' Association is considering the creation of a committee to respond to school families experiencing a crisis or trauma, so that Parents' Association can provide effective and prompt assistance.

Wendy Lawson-Gissing, President-Elect of the Parents' Association for 2009-2010, has accepted a position as a Kindergarten Teaching Assistant for the remainder of the school year. Therefore, the Parents' Association will be looking for a new President-Elect for the 2009-2010 year.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Sollenberger initiated a discussion regarding the criteria used to place the 4th and 5th grade students in the various levels of math class. Mrs. Alestock provided the Board with a comprehensive history of the math program at St. Hilary since she came to the school in 1986. After several years of Mrs. Alestock and Dr. Nugent teaching advanced math classes, the decision was made to bring in a full-time teacher, Miss Petush, to teach both advanced and remedial math classes to students in grades 4-8.

The class sizes for the advanced math classes are limited to 6-12 students in order to avoid having too large a class or students having to transfer to a less-advanced class the following year. Dr. Nugent stated that other schools, including St. Francis Xavier, Holy Family, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Seton, have contacted St. Hilary for further information so that they can set up an advanced math programs following the St. Hilary model.

Dr. Nugent advised that in grades K-3, math enrichment is done to accommodate the students' varying degrees of math skills.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., with the next meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura S. Bozzelli

MSB/