

School Committee Meeting Minutes September 11, 2008

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Prayer dedicated to the remembrance of the 911 tragedy was read by the group.

Roll Call: Father Greg, Marilyn Pavlov, Vacile Buhalis, Mark Kehoe, Sue Fitzmaurice (excused), Mary Kay Brunner, Lee Strickler (excused), Eric Marshall, Katie Parlow, Annemarie McLeod and Scott Jarnot

Subcommittee Representatives: Karen Borwick, Tom Biscarner, Lauri McVeigh, Madelyn McCarthy (Parish Administrator), and Guest Dani Jarnot

Approval of Agenda/Minutes and Correspondence: Mark Kehoe moved to approve; Scott Jarnot seconded the motion. Minutes and correspondence were approved.

Teacher Comments: Karen Borwick thanked the school and committee for the Teacher Start-Up funds. This is greatly appreciated by the teachers. Marilyn Pavlov indicated that this fund is part of the school budget. Karen mentioned that our new teacher Mrs. Kiger is doing well in the first few weeks of school. Mrs. Borwick also noted that while our enrollment has dropped, the teachers, staff and parents need to put all efforts into providing the best education experience for those that are enrolled. Mrs. Borwick mentioned that there is a new music teacher for Kindergarten – Mr. McCue. He is volunteering his time.

Principle's Report:

1. September 13, 2008 Pot Luck and Picnic: This will be an event of parents welcoming parents and a celebration of our school community. Bill DeSalvio will purchase hot dogs and buns. Mrs. Pavlov will provide ketchup and mustard. The school will reimburse the parish for paper products. Scott Jarnot will be in charge of grilling. Parlow and Buhalis families will be in charge of set up and taking in food starting at 4PM. Jody Skonieczny has procured inflatables. Mark Kehoe has arranged for a dunk tank. Additional volunteers needed to be dunkees. Mrs. Rhodes will volunteer time to make balloon animals and the school will reimburse her supplies. Eighth graders will help with set up, clean up and the inflatables. Dani Jarnot and Eric Marshall will supervise the playground. 7:30 will be the group photo. Annemarie McLeod will bring movies to keep kids entertained during clean up time.
2. 2009-2010 Back to School Picnic and Meet the Teacher Night: There was suggestion to merge back to one event for next year. After debate, the decision was to keep separate again. However, the back to school picnic will take place before school starts on August 29. Meet the Teacher Night will be September 15. Meet the Teacher Night will be agenda driven with an opening by Father Greg,

Mrs. Pavlov and Madelyn McCarthy. Presentations on Boosters, Scrip and Fundraising will be geared to the new families only.

3. Enrollment statistics were reviewed. A suggestion was made to mentor new families both in the regular school and Pre-School and families at risk of leaving. Mrs. Pavlov passed out a list of enrolled families. Mentoring will be discussed further at the next meeting. It was also suggested that we market to the Religious Education families with information on financial aid, Scrip, etc. The Marketing Committee has agreed to review and report back with suggestions. There were also suggestions for afternoon latchkey, and help and direction for those working support hours at the Fish Fry.
4. Mrs. Pavlov asked for a School Committee member to participate in the Discipline Committee which meets at 8 AM on Thursdays, when needed. Katie Parlow agreed to participate.

Fundraising: Mark Kehoe passed out a list of the Tuition Stabilization Committee's planned fundraisers for information.

Other Topics:

1. School Family Survey: Mark Kehoe indicated that we are addressing many of the issues that were raised in the survey. He suggested that we let the school community know how we are addressing them and asked if we are going to set additional goals to address remaining issues raised in the survey.
2. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Mark Kehoe recommended that we pilot this program with the School Committee as a way to get to better know one another. If successful, we can expand to the school community at large. This will be a topic for a future meeting.
3. School Counselor: Lauri McVeigh raised a concern over the fact that we don't have a school counselor and suggested that we look into the possibility of having one available to children at school to assist in a variety of issues. (Learning disabilities, gifted children, family situations, bullying). Father Greg agreed that we should consider and begin to look into the feasibility. It was also suggested that teachers on the upper floor take a more active roll in monitoring the children during class change both in the hallways and in the classrooms. Another suggestion was made to have leadership opportunities available to the 6 and 7th graders. It was noted that more work and awareness on bullying is needed for the upper grades.
4. Announcements: Madelyn McCarthy thanks everyone for the prayers and cards during her accident recovery period earlier this year. Bach Festival in Lexington September 12-14, Paul Shafer is involved. St. Clair City Community Foundation has a job opening available. Job is posted on their website. The Local Chamber

is hosting a Ladies Night Out on 9/18. Recommendation was for a team of 5 St. Mary's women participate. Event will occur from 5:30-9:30 and is being hosted by Seaway Bank.

5. Joe Corbi Fund Raiser: Mrs. Pavlov asked if we are interested again this year in participating in Joe Corbi Fund Raiser, which would be applied to family's tuition. The recommendation was to hold off until February.

Closing Prayer: The Our Father and Peace Builder's Pledge were used to close the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Minutes Submitted by:

Katie Parlow
School Committee Member