

## **St. Dominic School Board**

October 12, 2011

Members Present: Marie Wilson, Debbie DePollo, Fr. Mike Nolan, Delbert Cope, Laura Wissert, Susan Giddings, Jennifer Mize, Dan Simpson, Scott Schallon

Members Absent: Nancy Lukach, Harold Robinette, Lucian Boldea

Others Present: Mary Jo McCarty, Joanie Hrivnak, Traci Strohm

Meeting called to order with a prayer from the new Roman missal by Fr. Mike at 7:06 pm.

Attendees welcomed Delbert Cope. Everyone introduced themselves.

Dan motioned to accept the prior meeting minutes (9/7/2011) as distributed by email from Jennifer, seconded by Susan, unanimously approved.

The meeting agenda was accepted by attendees with no changes.

Susan motioned to accept Delbert Cope as a new Regular Member, Laura seconded, unanimously approved. There was some discussion about the possibility of Derek Lucas joining as an alternate member. He was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family. Scott motioned to table the issue of board membership until the next meeting (November), seconded by Dan, unanimously approved.

The school board rotation was discussed to see where we stand. We will work toward dividing into 3 equal classes as we add new members.

Three years to go: Delbert Cope, Laura Wissert

Two years to go: Dan Simpson, Jennifer Mize, Marie Wilson

One year to go: Susan Giddings, Scott Schallon, Harold Robinette, Lucian Boldea

Marie passed around the school board prayer rotation and asked that members arrange for a substitute if they are unable to attend that meeting.

**Marie** to invite Sr. Mary Marta to conduct the opening and/or closing prayers at the November 9 meeting.

Mary Jo shared that the fifth graders enjoy raising/lowering the flag, serving as crossing guards, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip, and reading the prayer at the end of the school day. She has asked the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to think about "what makes 5<sup>th</sup> grade special" and provide that information.

Dan reminded us that we also need to promote those things that we offer to assist with retention at each grade level. Delbert suggested that we ensure parents are informed about the options for continuation of Catholic education at St. Ann's or St. Mary's. This could assist with the transition to middle school. **Debbie** to contact St. Ann's and St. Mary's to request promotional material for middle school that can be distributed to interested families.

Fr. Mike spent some time with the kids in the school talking about Halloween and All Saints Day. All Saints Day is a holy day of obligation. He requested prayers for his silent retreat next week. The children have enjoyed having interaction with Fr. Mike, especially at lunch time. We need to invite parents to attend Mass with their students on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

We lost two students from K-5 since the previous principal's report. One student moved from the area. There are some prospective preschoolers who have toured the school. Potty-trained two-year olds are eligible for the Pre-3 class. **Joanie** to put an item in the bulletin about two-years and the ability for preschoolers to start at any time during the year.

The cafeteria financial report will be available next month. So far, the cafeteria is running smoothly. The Health and Wellness committee is sponsoring a Food of the Month.

#### Summer care financial report

	2010	2011
Due	\$19,371	\$17,201
Paid	\$18,802 (97.1%)	\$16,918
Outstanding	\$569 (2.9%)	\$283
Students enrolled	50	48
Students from parish	2	5
Registration fee	0	\$25 per student

Mary Jo is still billing for the outstanding fees until December.

SAC – 28 students on a regular basis (2010) / 15 students on a regular basis (2011). Five of the total lost from 2010 left the school, but 8 are no longer using SAC on a regular basis. There was some concern that we may have increased costs too aggressively for the people who use the service infrequently or only a few days a week. Susan motioned to table this discussion to the December meeting, Dan seconded, unanimously approved. **Mary Jo** to provide cost and income for a three-month period and total number of students using the service (SAC enrollment) at the December meeting. It was suggested that Mary Jo considering asking the families no longer using the service to provide some feedback.

There is an immediate need to put mulch in the preschool and the multi-colored playground to meet the minimum depth required by the state. The red/white playground cannot be used until mulch is added. The grass will have to be killed in order to ensure the mulch will last. The existing mulch in the parking lot can be used on the multi-colored playground. We need to purchase additional mulch for the preschool playground. There is \$664.25 in school board funds in the HASA checking account. **Susan** to check on options for mulch in the short term.

A long-term strategic plan is needed for the playgrounds. **Susan and Shane Mize** will work together to develop the plan, including long-term mulch alternatives, such as rubber mulch or other synthetic, low maintenance options. There was discussion about making the long-term mulch situation at the red/white playground an Eagle project. **Debbie** to request some guidance from the playground inspector to assist with the development of the long-term plan.

There are plans for an article in the Times-News with Debbie. There is a preschool parent who has requested an interview via Janet Coombs.

Melania Bochis is working with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare for the geography bee. We will discuss enrichment programs again in January.

Joanie passed out the reports on the 2011 Iowas. The data was presented based on national school norms. There was lively discussion about how best to publicize data on the website to highlight our achievements. The data should be presented in an eye-catching and concise way, with additional information available via links. **Joanie and Dan** to determine path forward for the website. We can then add a Facebook announcement to attract attention to the new information on the website. **Traci** to post to Facebook when ready.

Joanie presented a report on the School Board's Technology Fund. **Jennifer** to convey our thanks to HASA at the next board meeting. Joanie has already sent thank you notes to the 19 families who donated to the fund.

In general, payments (tuition, cafeteria, SAC) are coming in regularly with much less concern about delinquencies. We will follow up on this in December.

No report from the Finance/Budget committee.

A work day is needed to address the following issues:

1. Paint multi-colored playground (repairs must be done prior to the painting)
2. Rake leaves
3. Move mulch

In order to facilitate the work day, Scott requested a list of tasks so that he can plan accordingly and ensure we have sufficient tasks for the anticipated volunteers. November 5 and 6 may be a good weekend for the work day (tentative). The list will need to be sent to Scott by October 21. Items can be added after this date, but he needs a list of core jobs by this date. **Everyone** to think about needs and send to Scott.

Dan brought the letter to the bishop and the board members signed it. It had been circulated for review via email after the September meeting. **Marie** to send it to the Bishop via email (cc. Sister Mary Marta, Deacon Sean Smith) along with pictures that Joanie will provide.

Dan covered the communication plan, highlighting items that still need to be done. Need to make sure Facebook updates and email reminders (Catch the Spirit) are happening. Class websites are really out of date and need to be updated (no old information!). There was discussion about additional advertising opportunities with the Chamber of Commerce, although we would have to pay for those. Delbert educated the group on Internet advertising. **Delbert** to work on formation of an Internet advertising plan.

No report from Fundraising committee.

Jennifer provided a brief update on HASA activities. The next meeting is Friday, October 14, at noon. The next event is the Halloween Carnival. Plans are underway for a greenery sale the first weekend in December in conjunction with the Knights breakfast and Catch the Spirit.

Susan presented two survey proposals: (1) 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents and (2) Parish family. The board reviewed the draft surveys. The group voted to survey the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents about a pilot 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There were some concerns about the timing and content of the Parish family survey. Susan withdrew the proposed Parish family survey and will resubmit later.

Action items were reviewed.

Marie, Joanie, and Jennifer will take Sr. Mary Marta to dinner on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Mass and dinner will be at Marie's house on November 8<sup>th</sup>. **Marie** to send out information on what items will be needed for dinner.

**Jennifer** to send thank you notes to the Nypavers and Alicia Simpson for the preschool playground. HASA will take care of thank you notes for the community garden (Jennifer Janus, master gardener).

Calendar of upcoming events

October 14 – Uniform free day, Dress like a book character

October 31 – Halloween Carnival

November 1 – All Saints Day

Meeting concluded at 10:35 pm with a prayer by the group.