

St. John's Catholic School Council
November 14, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President, Elaine Peters. Father Kieffer led the opening prayer. Council members present were Elaine Peters, David Dubbert, Brad Eilert, Lindy Meyer, Barb Palen, Jo Pastrovich, Kim Gengler, Father Kieffer, Marcy Kee and Pastoral Council Representative, Peggy Thompson.

It was moved and seconded to approve the October minutes as written. No communications were received.

The Agenda was amended to add under New Business, 6d. Christmas Party. It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.

REPORTS

Budget: Council members reviewed the budget figures as of October 31, 2011. The one item that remains over budget is office supplies with color print cartridges being the biggest expense. Grade school utilities are down which should be a continued benefit of the new heating and cooling system. We had to borrow \$50,000 from the Diocese, which is typical for this time of year. It is expected to be able to pay back that loan after Christmas and end of the year donations. Coaching salaries and other fall expenses make this time of year difficult. The Council discussed possibly paying some of these items on a monthly or quarterly basis. Some maintenance on the high school radiators may help level out utility costs in the high school. This project would need to be done over the summer months.

Booster Club: Booster Club met last week and are working on concession stand and gate sign-ups. Booster Club, Ladies Guild and Knights of Columbus will cover the costs to repair the gym floor. St. John's may host sub-state basketball if the schedule works with BHS. They hope to re-open the online store soon.

Home & School: The group met October 9. Members voted to give \$300 to the library for the book fair events during Catholic Schools Week. The group is still collecting labels and is making preparations to assist with Catholic Schools Week. The organization is considering disbanding as it is difficult to maintain membership and officers.

Maintenance: The city has been contacted to winterize the power house and irrigation system. Jerry Hake has been contacted to do the electrical work on the new outlets in the lunch room.

Principal: The principal's report included the following:

- Denise Ahlquist of the Great Books Foundation will be here November 30-December 1. The November 30 parent night will include a discussion with parents and juniors. Please attend if you are able. On December 1 Denise will observe the teachers currently using the curriculum and provide feedback to them. She will also model a discussion with our students for other teachers.
- The PTL Volleyball tournament on October 17 went well. Thank you to all who helped.
- Marcy attended a high school football redistricting meeting in October and the 2012-2013 schedules are being set.
- Teacher evaluations began October 10. Teachers have been very prompt in returning the required post-evaluation paperwork. Evaluations will be completed in February.
- The Parent-Teachers Conferences held October 20 were well attended with 100% attendance in the grade school and 93% attendance in the middle/high school (6 families not attending).
- Two Brothers from the Glenn Mary Home Missions spoke to grade school students and Fr. Jerry Morgan from the Diocese spoke to middle/high school students in October.

- The new Tom Moritz Memorial Library in the high school was dedicated on October 19 with many from family present. A plaque was presented to the family and then hung on the library wall. Mrs. Ayala now volunteers daily to open the library for students to check out books.
- Testing with the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills has begun in both schools. It has been noticed that the current tests are outdated with a 2001 copyright. This version doesn't address current common standards. These tests are purchased by the diocese and it has been brought to their attention. We will likely wait until the end of our NCA cycle to use a new test.
- Parent teacher conferences will be held October 20, 3:30-9:00 p.m. and there will be no school on October 21.
- Those attending NCYC will leave November 16, with all but 9 students attending. Mr. Lueger, Mr. Holdren, and Mrs. Kee will also be attending among several parents.
- The NPL Vocal Clinic will be held on Monday in Glasco with a public concert at 4:30 p.m.
- High school basketball practices began today for both boys and girls and middle school basketball is well underway. High school has 18 boys and 9 girls; middle school has 16 girls and 21 boys. We are using the Municipal Building more this year to reduce the rental costs from the Wellness Center.
- The Knights of Columbus have purchased tickets for all middle and high school students to attend the new movie *Courageous* on November 22.
- Math Relays were held November 10 with 14 St. John's students attending. St. John's won First place in class 1A of 17 schools. St. John's placed 8th overall in the pool of all 1A-6A schools. Students also placed well on an individual basis. Mr. Lueger has been doing a nice job of emailing results to parents and staff.
- Kelly Peters and Vicki Jackson recently attended training on using the animated alphabet for phonemic awareness to help students with reading difficulty. Lisa Cordel is working with four groups of students and has already helped improved their reading performance.

Pastor: Fr. Charles will be gone while attending NCYC. Fr. Kieffer will be gone for 10 days beginning November 27 as he leads a pilgrimage of 42 people to the Holy Land.

Committee Reports:

- **Crisis Management:** A team will be put together to work on this project and will be done some during in-service.
- **Retention & Development:** The Council reviewed the upcoming postcard mailing by Cornerstone.

Public Comments: Miscellaneous items discussed included:

- Lisa Cordel will return to teach 5 days a week with the AP Reading program this week.
- There will be an all-school rosary to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at 8:00 a.m. in the gym on Friday, October 7.
- 13 students and 4 adults will be attending the March for Life trip in January.
- 4th grade students have completed their server training and will serve a couple of school Masses before serving on weekends.
- St. John's students attended the State Eco-Meet on November 2 and placed in the top 10 out of approximately 70 schools.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Cooperative with Tipton for Track: After much discussion the Council moved and seconded to extend our cooperative with Tipton to include Track. A final decision and details are yet to be determined.

Cooperative with Beloit for Baseball: The possibility of a cooperative with BHS for baseball is being considered. We currently only have one student expressing interest. More information will be given at a future meeting.

School Auction: Council members are to contact their team of solicitors to verify their willingness to solicit this year. Please return your lists with any changes to Vicki Eilert by December 12. Lists will be given to solicitors in January.

Christmas Party: The St. John's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Guaranty State Bank Community Room. Lindy will send out invitations, Jo will contact the caterer. The traditional gift exchange will be held and Jo and Barb will decorate.

Council members will discuss chapters 11-15 of *Outstanding!* at the next meeting.

The next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

Elaine Peters adjourned the meeting and Father Kieffer led the closing prayer. Executive Session was held.