

St. Matthew School Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2011

Attendees: Caryl Houghton, Marty Erlenbaugh, Judy Good, Mark Tarowsky, Nancy Watt, Juleen White, Andrea Cotton, Pat Sorensen, Craig Wetli, Father Paul, Katrina Dittmer, Denise Fry, Pam Frank

The meeting was called to order by Caryl Houghton.

Opening prayer was given by Marty Erlenbaugh.

Principal Report:

Principal Advisory Committee meeting on March 16th.

'Information Night' tentatively planned for April 26th from 6 to 7:30.

Technology Committee:

Approval on \$100 added to tuition to go to new technologies, upgrades to existing technologies, maintenance, licensing fees and training.

Marketing Committee:

Used in marketing SMS are pens, stickers, magnets, info sheet (currently being put together) to hang in new school entrance and possibly one in Fort Ben Gym entrance (Nancy Watt looking into). Banner for St. Patrick's Day parade.

Finance Committee:

Motion to approve budget passed, however, with the option of being able to move the \$ amount on the line items if needed for another teacher. This will avoid being locked into a certain number of teachers and keep us from putting a cap on K numbers and turning away students. This applies to 1st and 2nd grade also.

PreK budget based on 13 children, and they are running on a surplus this year. Anita Sergi will continue to teach the class and Denise will continue doing the finances. Christy Gauss will leave after this year. Jenny Alerding will take her place. No increase in tuition this year. (note: PreK not included under school commission.)

Katrina Dittmer is planning to provide a regular budget update the next school year.

Parish Council:

St. Matthew Men's Club hosting a "Texas Hold'Em Tournament" featuring poker and blackjack. Proceeds will benefit St. Matthew Church. It is February 26th after 5:00 Mass.

Nominations for new School Commission members are this month.

PFA Committee:

It is for tax reasons that we are having to look at possible changes to the scrip program. However, it will remain as is for the remainder of the school year.

PFA is changing how it distributes its donations to school. It is winding down its direct dollars to operating expenses over the next few years. Two of the areas PFA would like to fund are clubs and after school enrichment. Neither of which currently exists. A couple in the works are dance, chess, and cup stacking.

Dollars raised by walk-a-thon this year will go to technology. Promo line: "Laps for laptops!"

There will be a trivia night on May 14th, more info to come.

Carpool line changing to include carpool 'C', going behind church.

Building Committee:

Craig Wetli working with Father Paul on a wall displaying all SMS graduates.

Craig proposed doing proposed aesthetic and functional updates a section at a time as funds are available. The first section to include the cafe, entrances to the resource room and room next to it, and the kindergarten and pre-school room entrances. Coined the 'double door to double door' improvements.

Discussion Points:

Class size for K, 1, and 2 still being addressed.

One idea for a lower teacher/child ratio was a split class for 1st and 2nd, or 2nd and 3rd.

Two things that could effect enrollment numbers this fall: 1) Lawrence's situation could effect numbers of students entering 7th grade and 2) passing of voucher use could effect numbers overall. If this happens, one question was how we reconcile the difference between tuition amount and voucher amount?

Search Committee received resumes chosen by archdiocese. They will review them and conduct interviews Saturday, March 19th.

Closing prayer was given by Marty Erlenbaugh.

Meeting was adjourned.