

Minutes
St. Joseph School Council
Monday, August 24, 2009

Members Present: Brian Clements, Betsy Flener, Ruth Neal, Rick Cash, Tonia Skaar, Ed Feria, Oles Drobocky, Donna Kanaly, Nevil Speer, Christine Garske, Karen Stringer, Jan Lange, Martha Simpson

Members Absent: Lynn O'Keefe, Gustavo Obeso, Fr. Jerry Riney

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Brian Clements. The group said the School Council Member's Prayer.

Principal's Report: Jan noted that we lost 4-5 students before school began. Enrollment is down 7 students from the end of last school year. The average decline for the Diocese is 4.5% this school year.

Jan noted that the school theme this year and next year is **Beatitudes**. Each quarter grades will concentrate on one of the Beautitudes.

She reported on the various summer In-services for teachers and staff. Mary Ann Wolfram received the award as "Catholic Educator of the Year" at the Diocesan in-service held in Whitesville, Ky. Snap Grades have been added for the 5th- 8th grades. This has been received as very positive.

Jan reported on achievement test scores. Students at St. Joseph scored above the national average. Also, our students receive additional skills other than those tested with religious instruction as well. The school will begin using the Iowa Test of Basic Skills this school year.

Marketing and Development: Martha reported that \$69, 672 in CD's had matured so this money was used to purchase short term Government Securities.

Magazine sales have begun. The coordinators of the sales think the school is on its way to at least meet last years sales.

We should make about \$7000 to \$8000 on the 50/50 Club.

New families have taken to the Scrip Program and are actively using it. Also, Martha mentioned that one can purchase Visa and American Express Gift Cards. They can be ordered.

Martha then reported on the Annual Giving Campaign. For the fiscal year beginning July 1st, \$7350 has been received.

SPA: Tonya Skaar gave this report. The New Family Breakfast will be held on Thursday. She noted the Room Parent's Breakfast went well. SPA is selling cloth shopping bags with the St. Joseph theme "Going Green, Being Good Stewards."

Finance: Operating revenues are about \$102,000 Last year, they were a about \$97,000 in July. Money in the technology budget purchased additional Smart Boards. Spaghetti Supper is scheduled for Sept. 18th.

Enrollment Committee: Ruth reported that Guardian Families are going well.

Curriculum: Lynn O'Keefe and Siggy Gorman are still working on the athletic manual. Siggy has been writing and Lynn has been proofing.

Executive Committee Presentation: Brian noted that there appear to be too many committees and that possibly more people or council members could provide expertise. The executive, finance, and buildings and grounds committees operate on a regular basis. He noted that the long range planning committee, curriculum, and technology committees could be rolled into one committee called "Planning Committee."

Brian then discussed marketing and enrollment. He felt that this committee in the future could be called "Community Relations." SPA, promotions, fundraising and capital campaigns could be incorporated into this committee. This would mean that instead of 8 committees, there would be 5. Presently, our buildings and grounds committee does not have a council member. Having more members on fewer committees mean having more minds to solve and plan. Jan will bring copies of the long range plan to the next council meeting.

Brian also mentioned that it would be good to have calendars for fund raising. Tonya mentioned that SPA knows all their fundraisers a year in advance. Brian noted having a visual such as a calendar to refer to would be good. Donna moved to adopt the committee reorganization plan that had been proposed. All agreed.

Closing Prayer was said by Jan Lange.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.