

Parish Council Minutes

April 28th, 2009

Present: Les Hagensick, Pat Lehman, Debbie Hintz, Renee' Steger, Ed Schwanke, Mary Konshak, Ken Laczniak, Carl Geenen, Barb Holt, David Brunmeier

Guest: Jim Stout

Absent: Ellie Okunseri, Curt Arneson

Opening Prayer: Mary Konshak led the opening prayer.

Closing Ceremony for School: Jim Stout has agreed to oversee this celebration. He has met with Linda Kuhn and the H&S committee to get input for the celebration and is now asking the parish council what they would like to see happen with the celebration. The date of Sunday, June 7th, has been chosen for the celebration. Jim would like a phrase to advertise the celebration which won't emphasize the closing of the school. Barb suggested the theme of a bridge from St. Catherine to Northwest Catholic. There has been discussion of an outdoor mass at 10:30 with a pot luck luncheon to follow. Jim has asked the Holy Name Society to provide and grill hot dogs and burgers for the picnic. The parish council discussed contacting alumni and having a school historical picture display. Jennifer Rice will work on alumni contacts and get pictures beforehand from alumni to have on display. Several school employees have volunteered to put the picture collages together. Barb suggested anecdotes from teachers, students, etc. Jim shared that the school year ends on June 5th and teachers have been asked to keep their classrooms intact for the picnic/mass celebration so that alumni can tour the school. Jim will meet with Parish Life this Thursday to see who would be willing to help with this undertaking. Pat suggested that perhaps Jean Sorenson could make a cake in the shape of the school.

Approval of March Minutes: Barb moved to approve the minutes and Dave seconded that motion.

Update on Implementation of School Plan: 323 students have enrolled for Northwest Catholic. The west campus enrollment is at 200, which exceeds their current enrollment. Next year's enrollment numbers at both campuses are large, considering how early it is in the enrollment process. From the students at our school 17 have enrolled at the east campus and 33 at the west campus; 20 are parishioners from St. Catherine, about 10 of our current students will be attending Brown Deer or other public schools and one parish family will be changing their membership to St. Eugene to attend their school. The Business Managers, pastors/parish director and principals are meeting again this Thursday. They put together their dream budget and may now need to make cuts. Debbie feels the budget is weighted heavily in instructional costs (over 25%), which is not the norm. Typically salaries and benefits are the majority of a budget. They made their first attempt at a subsidy formula, and at this point it is too equally divided.

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Ultimately all three parishes must agree on the formula. Debbie shared that the marketing committee is working very hard. They've created a new brochure for the parishes and another to be distributed to the areas surrounding our churches. The school limits are 250 per campus and Pat noted that the west campus has almost reached this limit. Debbie said that an aid may be needed to be added to the K4 classroom or perhaps another teacher altogether if the enrollment numbers continue to climb. Debbie met with our development consultant today. The principals are excited about the quality of teachers at each campus.

Review Northwest Catholic By-Laws: Barb felt that the name Northwest Catholic School Association should be changed to Northwest Catholic Education Association because she felt the term "school" was not inclusive of plans for making the St. Catherine school building into a community education center. Ed felt that the term limits section needed more clarification, he wondered who would co-sign documents, and questioned whether there was oversight by the parish councils or other church representatives for changes to the "School" by-laws. He also felt that annual performance reviews for school personnel were too vague. A more definitive deadline should be given for the annual school budget review since other committees need to review the budget to determine annual parish contributions for the school. Debbie took our corrections and comments and will present them at her next meeting.

Status of 2009-2010 Budget: Our budget is on hold because of the school budget not being finalized. Without the school costs, we are \$88,545 in the black. Once the budget is approved the parish staff contracts can be written and distributed.

Nomination Committee: Barb passed on four names to Ken to use next year when nomination time comes around again. The committee commented that many people were interested in joining the parish council; however, several wanted to push it off for one year. Barb passed around the straw and official ballots so everyone could review them. The committee will count ballots after the last mass on May 17th and call the winners to invite them to the June meeting. Mary will put an announcement in the bulletin for anyone who wishes to vote with an absentee ballot. With regard to the trustee position, Jack Fox has agreed to be nominated and so far does not have anyone running against him.

Parish Director Report: Two quick things from Debbie: The Faith in Our Future number last reported has gone down to approximately \$292,000. Three pledges are now at \$0, which is a loss of \$9,700. The campaign chairs and Debbie will be meeting on May 21st to plan the follow up for the campaign. Fr. Dick will be back from Texas on May 17th. Fr. Jose didn't get the placement he wanted in Utah or New Mexico so he will be here more often in the future as a help out as needed.

Committee Reports

Prayer & Worship – This group met on March 31st. They discussed schedules for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. They planned the church "spring cleaning" on the Saturday morning before Palm Sunday. Renee' reported that many parish members came to help

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clean; the group finished around 12:30pm and shared a pizza lunch before going home. Kids from the parish joined in and it was a nice community building event. Debbie shared that an article about the spring cleaning will be in this Sunday's bulletin. Judy discussed plans for decorating the church for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The next meeting for this group is May 5th @ 6:30pm.

Human Concerns – The group met on April 13th. They discussed the Lenten almsgiving, the postcard campaign for the Freedom of Choice Act and the upcoming Mother's Day rose sale. They also discussed the issue of organ donation and whether they should do some type of parish wide communication and/or sign up on this topic. The food pantry served 69 families this past week and they did 3 family visits this week. They discussed Les's trip to Madison through St. Vincent DePaul where he met with legislators. Their next meeting is May 11th at 6:30pm.

School Committee – This group is no longer meeting since the schools are merging.

Finance – Dave was not present at their last meeting but shared that the parish budget is running a deficit compared to this time last year, largely due to a \$51,000 shortfall in parish income. Their next meeting is May 19th at 6:00pm.

Christian Formation – This group did not meet due to Holy Week. Their next meeting is May 5th.

Stewardship – The group is not meeting again until June. Debbie shared that the directories should be in parishioner homes by May 17th. Several parish council members commented that they would like to see a direct withdrawal option.

Parish Life – Mary shared that this group has not meet in a long time, but that they will be meeting this Thursday.

Closing Prayer – Mary Konshak led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Renee' Steger, Parish Council Secretary