

Minutes of the April 3, 2007 meeting of the St Edmund Parish School Board
Submitted by Susan Viselli on April 27, 2007

Board Members present: Randy Allori, Tracy Maney, Fr. John McGivern, Beth Purvis, Bill Streit, Susan Viselli, Sr. Collette Mary White

Board Members excused: Leticia Diana, Jack Egan, Enrique Lopez, Mary Prudence

Community members present: Marie Albrecht, Maria Allori

The meeting was called to order at 7:13pm. The opening prayer was given by Beth Purvis. A motion was made to approve the March 6, 2007 minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

1. Public Comments - none

2. FSC update, by Maria Allori. An ice cream social took place for children on March 20, as a thank you for supporting the parish fundraiser. The children also presented Fr. John with a picture they made for him as a token of their thanks for his support of the school. A SEPAA sports night will be held on March 24 and the girls basketball champions will be honored. A report of volunteer hours completed was sent to each family. The Easter egg hunt was held on March 31, in the school gym owing to inclement weather. There were 140 attendees and the event was a big success. Upcoming events include the Heifer International service project where students will raise funds to purchase animals for families in need in other countries. The focus will be on Africa. An assembly will be held to kick off the event. The annual Art Fair will be held on May 11th in Murphy Hall. A volunteer awards dinner and a SEPAA awards banquet will be held, as well as a Lego Club awards event.

3. Old Business

- A. SIP Report – The report still has not been received. Nancy O'Connor from the Office of Catholic School anticipates we will receive this report in early May.
- B. Action for Children update – Two families have been approved to receive daycare assistance from this State of IL program. Checks should be received soon.
- C. March 7 and 25 Open Houses – Families who attended have been added to the data base. These events were successful and resulted in 2 children being registered, with more anticipated in the near future.
- D. Registration for 2007-2008 – The registration drive continues. Current families are encouraged to register as soon as possible. A “finder’s fee” incentive is being offered (\$100 applied to next year’s tuition/fee) to families who recruit another family to our school. Children from both families must attend our school next year.

E. PreK 3 – An all-day program will be offered for 3 year olds, as previously discussed. Some logistics remain to be determined. Mrs. Kakie Conroy-Lovaas, PreK teacher, will head a committee to assess what is needed to implement this program for fall.

F. Principal Search – advertisements have been placed in local, regional and national newspapers and on websites.

4. New Business

a. Enrollment for 2007-2008 – Based on the budget, current enrollment, and enrollment by new families to date, our projected enrollment for next year is 137 students.

b. Contracts for 2007-2008 – Returning teachers must sign and return their contracts by May 1.

c. Mandated services from D97 – The issue of special services, such as speech therapy, was addressed. The current law requires that the local public school district in which a child attends school must provide such services to children with Individual Education Plans (IEP's). Previously it was the district in which the student resided who was responsible for providing these services. Some students from our school who reside within District 97 have obtained services.

Other students from St. Edmund School, who do not reside within Oak Park, have been placed on a waiting list and have not yet received services from District 97. In some cases children had been receiving services from the local public school district in which they reside and are now experiencing a service gap of up to one year while waiting for District 97 to begin providing the needed services. Ms. Judith LeDuc, our staff speech and language pathologist, and her graduate students from Northwestern University, have been providing speech and language assessments. There was some question about whether or not some children have also received treatment from Ms. LeDuc or her graduate students. In addition, a question was raised about the usefulness of performing assessments at our school, if the public school would have to repeat the assessment anyway, and since we cannot provide treatment on site.

Fr. McGivern will obtain information from Ms. LeDuc about the numbers of children being assessed and/or receiving treatment at our school, as well as the number of children waiting for services from District 97. He will contact the case manager at Holmes School, the D97 school district in which St. Edmund's is located, and where our children should receive services. Dr. Beth Purvis will serve as advocate with D97 for one family whose child has an IEP for speech therapy and has been on a waiting list to receive treatment. An update will be provided at the May meeting of the School Advisory Board.

d. Upcoming Events – Another Open House is planned for April 19. Other events were discussed in the FSC report.

5. Reports

a. Chairperson- Susan Viselli, no report

b.. Pastor – Fr. McGivern reported that the recent **parish fundraiser** raised \$90,000, most of which will be used in support of our school. He also provided an explanation of the **Triduum** and encouraged everyone to attend services on all three days. An **alumni party** is planned for April 21 and student volunteers have been recruited to assist on this evening. On April 28 a **parish service day** will be held. Everyone is encouraged to participate. More information will be provided prior to this event.

c. Principal – Sr. Collette Mary White provided members with a **calendar of upcoming events**. She discussed the **classroom configuration of 6th-8th grades**. During the present school year students in 5th and 6th grades have shared a homeroom. Following some discussion, Beth Purvis presented some ideas for classroom configuration of the middle school grades.

Maria Allori and Marie Albrecht who were present at the meeting were asked to join the discussion since, as present Spanish teacher and former middle school teacher respectively, they have a great deal of knowledge of the schedules and classes. A conference call will be held on Thursday April 12, in order for the above-named persons to discuss the possibilities in more detail. The goal will be to construct a plan that can then be approved by the pastor and presented to teachers for their input. Having a plan in place prior to May 1 will be ideal since teachers must sign their contracts for next year by that date. A **placement test** will be given after Easter to all children in PreKindergarten and in Kindergarten. This will be done to assess readiness for the transition into kindergarten and into First Grade. A question was raised about whether all new students in our school should be given a placement exam. It was suggested that returning students could be given an exam in June and then new students tested upon matriculation. Beth Purvis will find information about placement tests used at Chicago International Charter Schools. Perhaps the same tests could be used at our school.

d. Committee chairs – none

6. Other comments - none

7, Closing prayer – Fr. John McGivern

8. Adjournment – 9:09pm