

5/17/10 School Board Minutes

Members in attendance: Steve Siy, Peter Goodman, Karen Coon, Eileen Miller Carter, Jean Wright, Jim Swiderski, Matt Fricker, Larry Francione, Mary Cunniff, Christine Keyes, Jayme Hartman

Members absent: Tim Flanner

Teacher Representatives: Jenny Williams & Susan Knop

Guests in attendance: Newly discerned members of the 2010/2011 School Board, David Crosby, Susan Koehn & Kim Tallmadge

Meeting began at 6:35 p.m. in the School Library

1. Opening Prayer – A reflection was presented and led by Steve Siy
2. Open Forum – No one presented for Open Forum
3. Liaison Reports –
 - a. Home & School – Christine reported –
 - i. No one has stepped forward to act as Vice President for next year. Important that there is someone in place soon. Still talking to people whose names have been suggested.
 - ii. Working on H & S Guidelines with Doug Miller. Guidelines will replace outdated By-laws under which H & S was created. Crafting Guidelines to reflect how organization is currently operating and how it is to work with School Board. Will go over new Guidelines at the August meeting.
 - iii. Will have a Volunteer “Thank you” table with refreshments set up during the last week of school.
 - iv. Farewell mass & reception for Jayme & Connie Schuenke will be held on Wednesday, May 26. A special blessing will be given to them at Mass & then there will be a reception immediately following in the cafeteria. Both parents & students will have a chance to wish them well & to say goodbye.
 - v. High Interest Day and rainbow Olympics are scheduled for 5/21 & 5/28
 - b. Faculty – Jenny & Susan both indicated that it is a very hectic time of year with lots of great events and activities occurring over the next month.
 - c. Parish Council – Larry reported on meeting held on 5/10/10
 - i. Parish Staff taped a Mass for shut-ins that will be broadcast on 5/30/10. Hope to have other Masses follow this first attempt.

- ii. In May we had 115 Confirmations & 117 First Communions. Archbishop Listecky took time with each confirmand and the ceremony was very meaningful.
 - iii. Fr. Knippel and the Pastor of Prince of Peace presided over Masses at the other's parish. Great experience.
 - iv. John Paul Mitchell is a seminarian that will join the Parish staff for the next two months or so before leaving for Europe. He will speak at all of the Masses next weekend to introduce himself.
 - v. Richard Gassert has resigned from Parish Council. Under new committee structure, it is not necessary to replace him, as the new system will provide the new Parish Council membership for the upcoming year. Parish Council will operate with one less member until the end of this fiscal year.
 - vi. Parish Council worked to prepare for the meeting with all Standing Committees set for 5/19. This meeting is a result of the Strategic Planning part of the Parish strategic plan over the next 5 years. Next step will be to have each of the 6 Standing Committees address the concerns raised at that meeting. One issue to be addressed by Parish Council is communication. Looking at creating an ad hoc committee to develop a strategy for more effective communication with parishioners.
 - vii. Parish Council discerned officers for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. They are; Cheryl Zima, Chair, Mike Ostrenga, Vice Chair and Pat Butler, Secretary.
 - viii. The 2010/2011 Common Leadership and Parish Council meeting calendar was set and will be distributed to the Standing Committees at the next Common Leadership Night.
4. President's report – Steve reported. Principal Search Committee interviewed the final three candidates last week and has found the person that they believe would be a great fit for SJV. Have had contract discussions, but cannot give any further information on the chosen candidate at this point, as she has not yet accepted the offer. Whoever is ultimately given the job, that person will be shadowing Jayme before the end of the school year.
5. Principal's report – Jayme reported –
- a. There will be second interviews this Thursday for the final two candidates who we are considering to replace Mrs. Schuenke. Both are strong candidates, but each has different attributes to offer. Two School Board members will be part of the second interview committee.
 - b. Deb Blaha, Beth DeGuire and the rest of the Schedule Committee have established a good framework for the Middle School schedule for next year. They are in final stages of tweaking a few minute issues and will send it to the Middle School parents before the end of the year so they have time to review it over the summer. The longer day has helped with the timing issue in Middle School.

- c. The 5th grade students will do a Shadow Day on June 9 in the Middle School. The 6th grade students sent them an invitation to shadow them for the day. They will also meet with their Color Groups. These are groups that were set up during the school year and included 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who met at various times during the year to do projects together. The groups help the Middle School students get to know and learn to respect each other.
 - d. Several grade levels still have a few openings, but only one opening in K4 in the afternoon. May fill that later this week with a family that has toured and expressed an intention to attend.
 - e. The first annual 8th grade Ethnic Fair was held Tuesday, April 20th. The students, under Mrs. Schmitt's direction, did a fantastic job of educating us all on many aspects of ethnic life around the world.
 - f. On Wednesday, April 28th the 7th grade participated in their retreat at Schoenstatt. Mrs. Fischer, Eric Anderson, and Claire Hoffmeyer did a fantastic job preparing and facilitating the day for the students. A good time was had by all!
 - g. A new student from Mexico is attending SJV for the last quarter of the year in fourth grade. Mrs. Schroeder's class has done a great job of making her feel comfortable and welcome!
 - h. The Marion Devotion chaired by Kathy Uy and Tracey Fricker was fantastic. The students involved did a great job to make this event so faithful.
6. Committee Reports
- a. Advancement – Eileen reported
 - i. They met recently to work on revamping the folder that is given to persons seeking information on the school. Needs a facelift and needs to be a little more visually appealing and attractive.
 - ii. They are also working with Larry to order and place a permanent sign outside that indicates that we are enrolling students. An impression seems to persist that we have waiting lists in all grades. While that can be a good impression, it can also deter people from looking at SJV when looking for schools.
 - b. Finance – Pete reported that their business is concluded for the year, so no more meetings scheduled.
 - c. Long Range Planning – Steve reported that they have a meeting scheduled for next month and will continue to meet over the summer to work on the Survey.
 - d. Policy – Karen reported that they are working on a few changes to the Guidelines with Doug Miller and will present a proposed final set of Guidelines for the 2010/2011 school year at the June meeting.
7. Old business – None
8. New business

- a. Opening in At Large Membership created by the resignation of John Gatto.

Under Guidelines, there is no procedure for the replacement of an At – Large member who resigns his or her position. Old procedure was to hold a special discernment. Unique set of circumstances in this case because we have the advantage of having Larry Francione as a member. Because of the restructuring of the Committee system, Parish Council has asked that we agree to leave Larry on as an additional member for the 2010/2011 School year and that he be the person who acts as the Parish Council Liaison from School Board. Larry would either be a 10th member of the Board grandfathered in for the 2010/2011 school year, or we could ask Larry to assume the remaining two years of John Gatto's term as At-Large member and not hold a special discernment. This procedure would take School Board membership back to the 9 members that we are intended to have, and would provide the Board with a member who comes to us fully prepared to contribute, just as a 2nd year at-large member would be expected to contribute, as Larry has previously served on School Board. After a lengthy discussion, the Board could not come to a consensus on the best way to handle the opening and Larry's role, so we voted. The two choices were: 1) to hold a special discernment before the June meeting and solicit applications through publication in the Parish bulletin and the SJV Weekly, or 2) to accept Larry as John's replacement as an At-Large member to fill the remaining 2 years of John's term. After a vote, the Board agreed to ask Larry to fill the remainder of John's term and he accepted.

- b. Recent letter to the Board re: Middle School retention and the role of School Board.

Several concerns raised by the recent letter sent to the members of School Board from a family that has chosen to remove their children from SJV. Primarily, the letter was sent before any minutes of the April meeting were published. This means that the information in the letter that allegedly came from that meeting was given to them from someone in attendance at the meeting. As School Board members, we have an obligation to ensure that all representations of information shared at the meetings are accurate. Much of the information in the family's letter was an inaccurate representation of what was reported at the meeting with regard to why students have left SJV over the last year. It was agreed that Steve would send a letter to the concerned parents assuring them that no specific reasons were attributed to them with regard to their decision to

remove their children from SJV, and that it is not, in general, the Board's practice to discuss specific families or children.

- c. Discernment for Leadership positions will occur at the June 14 meeting.

Openings are for Parish Council Liaison, Vice Chair and Secretary. Please let Steve know by 6/1 if you intend to discern for any of these positions.

9. Announcements:

School Board will have a Farewell Party for Jayme at Karen's house on 6/24/10. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

10. Meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m. with a prayer.

11. Next meeting is a Common Leadership Night on 6/14/10 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the church.