

School Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Mrs. Hooper's Kindergarten class demonstrated the "Reading Eggs" program for the board and raved about how much the students enjoy it. Mrs. Hooper has been appointed the Reading Eggs Coordinator for our school. She plans to expand the program to more grades as the funds become available.

Mrs. Carey's 6th grade class was given an assignment to do a table top presentation on the country of their choice. Some of those students presented these to the school board and shared food they prepared from their chosen country as well.

Opening Prayer was offered by Mrs. Breunig.

Attendance: Anne Margaret Taylor, Brian Mattingly, Tina Borders, Mrs. Breunig, Fr. Pepper, John Graves, Curtis Hamilton, Susan McCain, Alicia O'Cull, Tina Sagrecy, Melissa Taylor, Andy Matherly and teacher representative, Mrs. Ellery.

Motion to approve *amended* minutes from October by Tina Borders and seconded by Curtis Hamilton. Motion to approve *amended* minutes from November by Susan McCain, seconded by John Graves.

Pastor's Report: nothing new to report

Principle's Report: Mrs. Breunig proudly reported the EXPLORE test results. The test results show that 96% of St. Dominic 8th graders scored above the national average, meeting or exceeding all of the benchmarks! Congratulations to our 8th grade students and teachers! Catholic Schools Week begins in two weeks; some of the planned events for the week were discussed. February 5th will be an extension of Catholic Schools Week with a CEF reception honoring Mrs. Lori Graves, winner of The Catholic Education Foundation Teacher Award and Mrs. Jane Spaulding winner of the Outstanding Catholic Educator. St. Dominic will be competing in Washington County's Spelling Bee this year instead of the Archdiocese competition.

Teacher's report: Mrs. Ellery reported the 3rd and 5th grades are preparing for the Terra Nova test. 4th grade is working on Math. Grades 6, 7 and 8 went to a play at The Opera House and will be going to Bethlehem to participate in the "Middle School Challenge". The 8th grade will be attending the Right to Life Rally in Louisville on Monday.

Finance Committee Report: Numbers show that through December 31, 2011 our school account balance is -\$18,000. No data has yet been reviewed for the month of December to show why this unexpected balance exists. The committee is meeting with Rosemary to get more budget information and review the expenditures outlook. A more accurate financial report will be presented at the next meeting. Although there are still funds, the teachers' grants have been frozen until we reevaluate other, more pressing needs.

Advancement Committee report: They are updating The Annual Fund Drive and the Alumni lists, mailing cards to students who have left St. Dominic in the past two years to invite them back, updating the St. Dominic brochure which hasn't been done for three years, trying to recruit more CCD students and planning more alumni relations. They are also working on coming up with a "Signature Event" for St. Dominic School.

Academic Performance Committee are working on 4 specific tasks which include prepping the 7th grade for the EXPLORE test next year, EXPLORE test planning and presenting for parents, drafting a goal-setting plan for students that may include a "career day" and research adding a math portion to the GRADE testing for the purpose of having measurable data on student performance and enable students to set goals for themselves.

Building and Grounds Committee: Andy Matherly met with Bob Goodlett and toured the school to see the structural problems we must address, specifically leaking roofs and poor gutters. Bob approved ~\$3000 from the parish to help with expenses. There have been to date ~\$1800 in repairs, however these repairs are only temporary and much more work is needed to permanently fix our issues. These repairs are estimated to cost \$40,000-50,000 and include re-building the roof on the connector building (which remains our only leak), replacing gutters, and tuck pointing of the brick. These repairs will eliminate *any* water entering the school, which in turn will stop the plaster problems, swelling walls and any possible mold grow. This is not an *immediate* concern but must be done to ensure no further damage our school.

Science Lab: Start date is still undetermined but would like to begin in early May. The projected costs for the room prep are ~\$75,000. A big portion of this being the heating and cooling expense. If funds are available we would like to not only purchase a unit to supply just the science lab but the whole 1965 building as well. This would ensure a much more efficient heating and cooling system whereas the existing one is obsolete and very costly to run.

Efficiency Committee outlined many issues they plan to address in a hand out. Some as follows: hiring a guidance counselor, implementing a Student Council, addressing expanding Terra Nova testing for all grades 3-7, developing an ESS program for those struggling in math, conducting a follow-up survey to see if our gap is closing and addressing the 12% of our students with a learning or emotional disability who may need extra support.

Technology Committee consulted with a group from Louisville that quoted costs for an antivirus and spy ware protection. This exposed the fact that Technology fees need to be increased next year for all school families. Mrs. Grider is attending a Lunch and Learn at Horseshoe Casino in Indiana to learn more about the new One-to-One Initiative some schools are implementing. She will learn how other schools have implemented this and the results they see. This initiative is described by allowing each student to have their own electronic pad/tablet to use in the classroom. We discussed maybe using a modified version of this for our school in the future. This is the future in education and in order to compete with public schools we must be open-minded to these ideas.

Other Business: Acceptable Use Policy as it applies to student-owned devices was discussed. Donna Brown, Archdiocese Technology Coordinator updated us on what other schools are doing. It was recommended that the students use the eReaders only for reading; internet access may not be allowed. The Acceptable use Policy needs to be amended when devices are allowed and the school handbook needs to be updated to include the policy for the use of the devices.

The moneys are currently not available to prep for our new science lab. John Graves offered suggestions on doing a fund raiser to help with the costs. Ideas were discussed that would include involvement from our school, school board and our parish. Some ideas included holding an event much like the "Circle of Friends" that St. Catharine holds each year. More details will be available at the next meeting.

Next meeting: February 29, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Tina Sagrecy, seconded by Curtis Hamilton.

Father Pepper offered closing prayer.