

St. Gregory School Board Minutes  
September 2, 2010  
5pm

Present: Lisa Azzopardi, Sandy Brook, Mike Callagy, Jody DiMauro, Donna DeBenedetti, Bill Gatt, Carole Lozito, Frank Marinaro, Alan Priest, Lorraine Paul, Mike Pearl, Ron Rock, Father Mark, Cindy Stuart, Linda Tribuzi

Not present: Tom Finn, Kristen Besse, Bishop Elect McElroy

1. Opening Prayer – Father Mark
2. Welcome – Mike Pearl
  - o New School Board members introduced: Frank Marinaro, Alan Priest, Carole Lozito
  - o New Parents Association representatives introduced: Linda Tribuzi and Kristin Besse
3. Principal Report – Lorraine Paul
  - o Summer: Lots happened over the summer – the awning, the primary playground, new interior paint. Many thanks to those spearheading the improvement efforts: to Peggy Marinaro and Chris Schultz for the awning, to Janette Cullinan for the play structure, and to the Priest family and various parent volunteers for the painting inside the school. The primary playground should be finished next week – a fence will be in place where the old one was. If there is still money in the playground upgrade budget, Mrs. Paul hopes to have some new painting done on the playground, including perhaps a smaller kickball “field.”
  - o Personnel: We have 2 new staff members – Mallory Brook, a credentialed teacher from SDSU, will be working part time in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Because Nancy Green will be working only two days a week in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Caitlin Stieren, who is getting her degree, will be assisting in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Kelly Greggans is in kindergarten, while Michelle Garibaldi is on maternity leave.
  - o Math: Teachers have a new math program, enVision, which was piloted in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade last year.
  - o Technology: We have a new “smart board” in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - o Music: Gennine Harrington designed a music curriculum for teachers this summer; she will attend next month’s board meeting to discuss it. (More on music below)
  - o Enrollment: Our enrollment is 318. The budget for the year was based on an enrollment of 315, so we’re not looking to add students. When asked if we have a maximum class size, Mrs. Paul said that we aim for 35 students per class, and don’t go above 37.
  - o Bishop Elect McElroy: Bishop Elect McElroy will be here at St. Gregory definitely until December, probably until June.

4. Pastor Report – Father Mark, in Bishop Elect McElroy’s absence

Bishop Elect is thankful for the gift from the school – his ring. The Parents Association made a \$500 contribution, Sports Board made a \$500 contribution, student council contributed, teachers contributed. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will attend the Ordination. There will be no celebration here for him because he will still be here with us.

Father Mark expressed gratitude to the school on behalf of the parish for the school playground renovation – the parish children enjoy it as well.

5. Future Agenda Topics

- o Music: Mrs. Harrington will update provide a music update at the next board meeting. When asked if we will put music back into the budget if our financial aide needs go down, Mrs. Paul explained that we will have to see – it will depend on what we decide is a value. The music budget last year was \$16,500.

- Technology: Technology will be an ongoing topic – it is one of the goals of the auction fundraiser.
- Financial Aid: When asked if auction monies will be spent on financial aid on an ongoing basis, Mrs. Paul explained that the money raised at the auction is not an endowment, but rather is meant to be spent in the year in which it was raised. When asked if auction monies not spent on technology this year will be going to financial aid, Mrs. Paul explained that we will do as much as we possibly can. Three years ago, 35K was budgeted for financial aid; this year, 50K was budgeted for financial aid, and it has all been spent. When asked if the parish gives the school money for financial aid, Mrs. Paul explained that the parish gives the school a subsidy and that she puts it toward financial aid; this dollar amount is part of the \$50K budget.

6. Committee Updates – Technology and Escrip will be standing updates from here on out.

Escrip – Ron Rock

- There have been some fairly significant changes in the program. 20% of Safeway's contributions (75% of our total) *must* go to fitness and health and nutrition.
- It makes sense to let Safeway's Escrip contribution help pay for Rhythm and Moves, then reallocate money from Rhythm and Moves to wherever it is needed.
- It was suggested that we could generate support for Escrip throughout the parish community by filling in a blank spot on the back of the bulletin with an "ad" for Escrip.
- There is interest in getting tetherballs for the playground. Mrs. Stuart is already investigating this.
- On a related note, per the Archdiocese, we need to put the Target program on hold, because it could threaten our "tax exempt status." Anything considered commercial marketing might be a problem, so Mrs. Paul is awaiting clarification from the Archdiocese. Parents are still able to sign up for the Target program, but we must stop advertising it in the Wednesday envelope, school announcements, etc.

7. Parents Association Update – Linda Tribuzi

Closed meeting is scheduled for 9/14 from 7-9pm in the teachers' lounge. First open meeting of the year is scheduled for 9/23 at 7pm in the Worner Center. The Parents Association presents "Help Your Child Overcome Bullying," on 10/5 at 6pm. We will have an update next month.

8. Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Donna DeBenedetti