

**St. Mary of the Lake Catholic School Education Commission
Meeting Minutes – Monday, December 2009**

PRESENT: Paul Oselka, Karla Madison, Joseph Bardusk, Gina Wilkinson, Mark Smith, Father Jim Morris

ABSENT: Renate Zavesky, Patricia Carpenter

Meeting called to order by Joe Bardusk at 7:38 pm

Prayer by Father Jim Morris

Meeting Minutes from December, 2009 moved by Mark Smith to be approved..
Seconded by Karla Madison. Minutes approved.

Comments from the President: Joe Bardusk voiced his appreciation on behalf of the school to the coaches and volunteers.

Communications: Paul Oselka explained that he had been approached by a couple that own a kind van/trailer that operates a roller skating party. They would come to St. Mary of the Lake School and would rent out skates, etc. for use on our gym as a fundraiser for us. Paul said he would check the details further and check if our gym floor could handle this type of activity. It was agreed by all that this was a very interesting idea and that possibly the couple could make a presentation at a future Home and School Association Meeting. Kathleen Kelly also said she would check on any insurance liability issues or riders we may need.

Update on the Light/Crossing Area by the Church – the light is working and the state police and city police will be there when they can. Ideally, in the future it would be great to have a person trained to work as the crossing guard.

Pastor's Report: Father Jim Morris announced that the money SML received from the Annual Noah's Appeal will go towards teacher bonuses. Several Commission members told Father Jim that they did not receive anything in the mail regarding the Noah's Appeal from the Diocese and Father Jim said he would look into this.

Gina Wilkinson asked Father Jim if there was any update regarding the St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church Directory. Father said he would investigate further on when this will come out.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Mark Smith reported that there has been no activity in the past month on the Finance Committee and there is nothing to report. He did report that SML is currently running at a \$30,000 deficit.

Marketing Committee – Kathleen Kelly reported that the School Newsletter sent out its first issue and it was very well received and many Commission members commented on how great it looked. It was requested that it be also placed in the Parish Bulletin.

Kathleen Kelly reported that the Marketing Committee is working on the grant for the new doors with the Brach Foundation and that the deadline for this grant application is December 31, 2009..

Kathleen Kelly reported that there was a story and photos regarding the Fall middle school trip to Tremont in The Beacher.

Kathleen Kelly reported that the night before this meeting there was the Benton Harbor Emergency Shelter Dinner and that on December 18, 2009, the wrapping party will take place.

Kathleen Kelly reported that on Thursday and Friday of this week the school would be holding a bake sale to raise money for Toys For Tots. It was suggested that she contact Mary Beth Moriarity from The New Buffalo Times as this would be a good photo op for PR for the school.

Kathleen Kelly reported that we had our school/teacher Wish List published in The Herald Palladium and a woman called to donate one of the items – a laminator for the school.

Father Jim Morris reported that this week at the weekly Mass, that Lexi Moser, a student at SML, was going to present “her experiences at SML.” The 2nd Collections were to go to the Noah’s Appeal.

Home and School Association Report: Since the 8th Grade Class is not doing fundraising for their Washington, DC trip this year, the Home and School Association is selling the Fannie May chocolate bars.

Also – there will be no Christmas parties or gift exchanges in the classes this year due to the economy. There will be a Movie Day for the entire school to celebrate the holidays.

The SML Christmas Pageant is to be held at the church next week.

Old Business: Paul Oselka spoke about the Horizon Bank loan program that has been discussed at previous meetings. Currently, SML does not require tuition to be paid in full at the beginning of the year and most families use the current monthly FACTS program. Discussion ensued regarding if we should pursue the Horizon Bank loan program further. Joe Bardusk thought we should vote on the issue. The presentation made by the Horizon Bank at one of the earlier Commission meetings this year was not very well received by the parent attendees at the meeting. Karla Madison noted that what should be voted on in regards to policy change on our part is if we want to require tuition to be paid in full at the beginning of the year.

Registration for 2010-11 school year: It was agreed that registration needs to be in February or early March. Gina Wilkinson offered the idea that to financially entice more families to sign up before summer starts (because historically only approximately ½ of our current school families sign up before summer) so we can better see our

budget and financial numbers – possibly having a cheaper rate or discount if families register and commit in February or March of 2010 for the 2010/11 school year.

It was decided to table the registration date decision until the January, 2010 meeting.

Also discussed was having an Open House no later than mid-March to attract new families and to have this Open House highly publicized.

New Business: Mary Brown reported to Kathleen Kelly that the Mardi Gras fundraiser of 2010 is off to a good start.

Traci Lauricella has agreed to be Summer Festival Chairperson once again. Traci would like to get daily family coordinators to help out. And also that she would start on an Operation Manual for the Festival.

Final Comments: Father Jim Morris reported that some of the Commission Board Members' initial terms would be expiring at the end of this school year. And also that new officers would need to be elected this summer. Two terms would expire this year and Father Jim had not decided how to select which two would be expiring – possibly by asking for volunteers or drawing names. New Members would then be selected by Father. Everyone within our school/parish community is open to be considered for selection. It was suggested that at the March Open House if we have one, that it be publicized that there would be openings on the Commission to see who has interest in serving.

Karla Madison moved to adjourn meeting and it was seconded by Paul Oselka. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm Eastern Time.