

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH SCHOOL  
BEAVER DAM, WI  
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2013 7:00P.M.

Members Present: Barb Haase, Fr. Mike, Hector Ramirez, Jill Kaufmann, Tricia Cargen, Tracy Gundert, Debbie Hanks, Dave Kalscheur, Mark Roedl, Beth Jens

- I. Call to Order/ Opening Prayer
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The newly revised St. Katharine Drexel School Vision, Mission, Philosophy and Goals were read as a reflection to open the meeting.
- II. Board President Opening Statement
  - a. No guests.
- III. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes
  - a. Approved by Debbie Hanks, seconded by Tricia Cargen.
- IV. Audience Comments/ Eyes and Ears
  - a. It was suggested that the home SKDS sporting events be listed in the newsletter each week. Students have expressed an interest in supporting their classmates at these events and it would be helpful to have these dates posted somewhere. Barb said this would definitely be possible, but these dates can change and she would need updated schedules from the coaches.
  - b. Dave Kalscheur mentioned that he heard very positive remarks about SKDS students at the Glitz. He was also told that several Wayland teachers send their children to SKDS partially because of how impressed they are with the SKDS students at Wayland.
- V. Correspondence
  - a. Barb is working with a family from South Korea. They are interesting in enrolling their child at SKDS second semester.
- VI. Pastor's Report
- VII. Administrator's Report

■Soles Walk Follow Up- This was a pretty incredible experience. SKDS had 23 people attend (7 faculty members). 7000+ people participated in the event. The Archbishop was there. The event was very well organized. After the walk there were sandwiches, activities for the kids, a band and a bus stuffed with donated shoes. SKDS kept the shoes donated by our students local (St. Vincent De Paul). Every school in the diocese participated in some way. Students and staff are already looking forward to next year.

■Christmas Program- Play practice has started. This year's program is December 12 at 1:00 and 6:30PM. This year the program will include 5K-8th grades. In the past there have been concerns about the length of the program and how late it runs (in respect to the younger children). The preschool and 4K students will still have their own Christmas programs in their classrooms. Barb is very open to feedback over the new format as it will be reevaluated again for next year. The board discussed the importance of communicating with the preschool and 4K families both about the change for this year and the importance of their feedback on the new format.

■Advent- Personal invitations are being sent home each week inviting families to join us for weekend Mass. This is to encourage Mass attendance with the Parish community. All the regular Advent activities are being planned for this year with the exception of the Advent wreath sale. This event only takes place every other year.

■Board "In-service"- The board reviewed "An Overview of Catholic Governance Committee" packet that Barb handed out. The SKDS School Board is a Consultative Advisory Committee with the operating principle: An informed School Advisory Committee/Board is a SUPPORTIVE BOARD. Our school board members are elected for a 3 year term. Our meetings are open to everyone. It was identified that our school board needs to be more effective at setting long term goals. Barb will be sharing this handout with the absent board members.

■Building School Community- It is important to evaluate if we are connecting as a community. People are pulled in so many different directions and we need to be conscious of how we keep and build community spirit. If SKDS chooses to participate in School Choice in the future we will need to identify how to help families participating in that program feel connected.

■Mission/Philosophy/Goals-This was read and reviewed at the beginning of the meeting.

VIII. Break- None taken

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Scrip Committee-no report.
- b. Financial Report- July-October reviewed.
- c. Advancement Committee-
  - Glitz- Update provided by Tricia Cargen- Everyone had a great time at Glitz. The event ended up raising \$20,401! 104 people attended this year's event. There were a lot of great comments about the band!!! Some suggestions for next year included: doing a better job reaching out to alumni for the event, sending out a survey to determine if an October date would be better in the future and selling tickets for just the silent auction (not the dinner).
  - PR- Update/review of survey- The committee will be sending out 4 short surveys. The surveys are broken into 4 categories: Religious Experience, Facility, Student Experience and Extra Curricular Activities. Many of the questions ask for a yes/no answer, but also include a comment box. The surveys have been drafted and the next step is getting a Spanish version set up. The committee hopes to have these sent out in the next few weeks. They are also planning the January 3 Holiday celebration for SKD Parish & School employees and volunteers.
- d. Endowment- no report.

X. Parish Council Liaison Report November – Mark Roedl

There were several things discussed at the last Parish Council meeting:

- a. The school came in \$4251 under budget for this past year.
- b. The Parish is trying to make weekend Masses a more relaxed prayer time for families with young children. Both the parish council and the school have begun exploring options to help accomplish this. Some ideas include a nursery/Sunday school drop off at the Parish Center or a Children's Liturgy Of The Word (the kids would leave during the readings to work on Scripture at their level and an activity and then return 10-15 minutes later). The goal is to enable adults to pray at Mass without distraction. Another suggestion that was brought up was having prayer bags in the back of church that small children can check out for the Mass.
- c. The technology committee is starting to gain momentum. They are focusing on parish and school needs and looking at ways to make the website more interactive and laying out a strategic road map/plan for the committee and their goals. They feel there is a need for a better understanding of the budgetary requirements for technology and that parishioners will be very supportive of technology with time and talent once they understand the need. The committee meets once a month.
- d. There is concern over the lack of school families attending Mass on the weekends. This low attendance is high on Fr. Mike's list. In the tuition contract, families agree to attend Mass weekly. It is important that families understand that the Friday Mass does not meet this obligation. Fr. Mike feels it is important that families fulfill this part of their contractual agreement and they be held accountable. The Parish Council would like to see this part of the policy enforced for the 2014-15 school year. The board agreed that this needs to be well communicated with school families and that opportunities be provided for discussion regarding concerns and thoughts of our families. At the December meeting continued discussion regarding Mass attendance and accountability, parish council expectation and enforcement will continue. It is the hope of the board that families will attend the meeting.
- e. The Parish Council's mission is focused on welcoming people. They are reviewing the current process of welcoming new families and ways to improve the current process.

XI. Old Business/Updates

- a. Football Mania winners will be in the bulletin (if there is space) and always on the school page.

XII. New Business:

- a. Mike Kaul will be coming to a future meeting as a representative from the Endowment Committee. Beth Jens will reach out to the Band Guild and Home & School about attending a meeting.

XIII. Adjournment: 9:21PM. Next Meeting December 17, 2013 7:00PM.