

**ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
BEAVER DAM, WI
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES – September 17, 2013**

Members Present: Barb Haase, Hector Ramirez, Jill Kaufmann, Jennifer Bohlig, Jennifer Merrill, Tracy Gundert, Dave Kalscheur, Beth Jens, Rob Jens, Mark Roedl

- I. **Call to Order/Opening Prayer.**
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m. Rob Jens led The Our Father.

- II. **Board President Opening Statement/Introduction of Guests:**
 - a. No guests.

- III. **Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes:**
 - a. Revision of Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes from August did not indicate that Jill Kauffman approved the minutes. Tracy Gundert was not listed as a present member in August meeting minutes.
 - i. A motion to approve the minutes with these changes was made. Approved by Rob Jens and seconded by Dave Kalscheur.

- IV. **Audience comments/Eyes and Ears**
 - a. The Festival went well and was well attended. The music Saturday evening was really great and the kid's games were a big hit as well. Preliminary numbers are looking good considering the there were a lot of start up costs.
 - b. Band and Athletics: There are some questions and concerns regarding what offerings are available for the fifth grade children for athletics and band. Parents have expressed frustration about the communications that are being sent in regards to these opportunities and the expectations for volunteering. Parents who are new to fifth grade are feeling overwhelmed by the information and "not knowing".
 - i. A suggestion was made to have a meeting at the beginning of the year that outlines what offerings will be made available to fifth graders, especially for families who are new to fifth grade. A current fifth grade family could also put together a handout that outlines all of the activities and expectations from their experience that would be helpful to new fifth grade families.
 - c. Question: Does the bulletin still list the winners of Football Mania? Yes.

- V. **Correspondence**
 - a. No correspondence.

- VI. **Pastor's Report**
 - a. No report

- VII. **Administrator's Report**
 - a. **Common Core:** A parent contacted Barb in regards to the Common Core State Standards and when they were discussed and implemented at SKDS. Barb shared the correspondence and discussed why and when the Common Core State Standards were implemented.
 - b. **Meeting the Needs of Students:** SKDS is finding children attending our school have greater needs some of which go beyond education. We started out with two 3K classes this year (total of 15). The classes were smaller and when discussed it was decided that it may be more beneficial for the classes to be combined so the children could have more opportunity for social interaction. With continued small classes the children did not have to interact at all since there was no need to share toys or play together (for example). All parents were contacted and agreed that this would be beneficial and the classes were combined. With the 3K classes combined Mrs. Knox, a Reading Specialist, is now available two more mornings per week to work with primary children on their Reading Skills.
 - c. We still have retired teachers and others coming in to help students who need additional assistance during the day or after school. We are blessed to have this additional help so that our students can be successful.
 - d. 8th grade children are doing wonderfully and they are really showing their leadership skills and personalities.
 - e. **Technology Committee:** First meeting last week. Parish and school have formed a technology committee to look at technology needs parish and school wide. The first meeting was a brainstorming session. We are looking long range and planning together so that the parish and school work together. The servers at school are old and need to be replaced right away. All emails flow through the school; if our servers go down, school and parish center cannot send emails. IPADS, Smart boards,

Notebooks, different technologies that can be possibly used in the classrooms are being studied. One possibility is that of leasing servers for about \$7000/year. Current server is 12 years old. This is an important committee to the parish and school as it creates our infrastructure for most of what we do.

- f. **Safe Schools:** Detective Mike Riesman met with the faculty and staff on the safe schools program. We are working on this over the next year. Over the next 3-8 months we will be implementing the safe schools program that the Dodge County public schools have implemented in the event a crisis should occur. We will adapt the same language, same protocol, same standards, etc. A core committee is already being formed including teachers, staff, and school board members. Letters and information will be sent home to families so they are aware of what the steps and procedures are for a crisis. The goal is to have it ready and in place by the end of the year. The public schools already have this model in place.
- g. **Criminal Background Checks:** Safeguarding Class took place in September; 26 people attended from all over. All background checks have been completed.
- h. **Public Relations Committee:** The committee is working on a survey to send out to families in the next couple of months. It will be a general survey covering topics such as identifying how people are greeted, classroom atmosphere, religious atmosphere, technology, conflict/resolution and peacemaking skills, etc. We expect to keep it as simple and easy to use so that families can readily respond. We will use Survey Monkey. A second survey, specific to eighth grade families, will be sent later in spring.
- i. **Financial Report:** Preliminary closing of the books for last year is almost done. Last Fiscal Year, the school was under budget by approximately \$4300. Once it's been finalized Barb will let the school board know. Barb presented the July 2013 through August 2013 budget.
- j. **School Choice** is something we will be looking at this year. The next sign up is February 1. As Barb receives more details she will share. Barb will research what needs to be done so that we have the information we need to make appropriate decisions. Have to apply every year - \$900 annual fee.

VIII. **Break** – None taken

IX. **Committee Reports**

- a. Scrip – no report.
- b. Finance – See above
- c. Development Committee – no report.
- d. Endowment – is coming out with their annual report soon.

X. **Parish Council Liaison Report August**

- a. The Council is in the process of developing a mission statement and is reading a book called *Rebuilt*. They are advising Father Mike on things he needs to be aware of and ensuring he has enough input on these items (good, bad or indifferent). Mark Roedl is happy to answer questions in regards to the Pastoral Council and can be a conduit between the Pastoral Council and School Board. The Pastoral Council is looking at how we get people involved and excited about their faith? The Parish Festival started some momentum.
 - i. School is also working on a mission statement. It has only had minor revisions over the last twenty years. Once it's drafted it will be brought to the School Board for input.

XI. **Old Business**

- a. None.

XII. **New Business** – Beth Jens will contact Athletics and Endowment and invite them to one of our next meetings. It would be great to hear from the other committees.

XIII. **Adjournment:** 8:35 p.m., Next meeting October 15, 2013-7:00 p.m.