

**Minutes
School Board Meeting
November 10th, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 .

Present were: Jill Caldwell, Chris Szpilka., Michael Sheridan, Mark Smillie, Paul Szczpaniak, Donna Weiner and Donna Smillie (Principal, Non-Voting)

Absent: Fr. Bart Tolleson

Visiting: Dr. Tim Uhl, Superintendent, Montana Catholic Schools

OPENING PRAYER: Mark Smillie

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES September 8, 2014 meetings were reviewed. Michael moved that we approved the minutes as circulated. Chris seconded.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was approved as circulated.

INTER-MEETING DECISIONS: None

Dr. Uhl's comments

Informed us of his meeting with the bishop

- Accreditation is an important step for the bishop.
- Restrictions on liturgies in the old letter has been lifted
- Tim was asked to familiarize himself with the procedures of the board
- Stressed the important of continuing and firming up our strategic plan

Principal's Report: Submitted November 5, 2014

Accreditation

I can't express my relief and joy at the successful accreditation visit we had Oct 19-22. Thank you to all of you for your part in this venture. I was so proud of you and of our teachers, parents and students. We had nothing but good reports on all aspects of school life. To celebrate we gave the students a free dress day and I took the teachers out for Nachos. There is a palpable feeling of joy in our halls these days!

Salt and Light

Students attended a Salt and Light retreat on October 13 and 14. I did not attend this year, but several teachers commented on the lack of depth in the talks. We are looking next year towards other options for retreat directors. The good thing about this is that our discussions have sparked some interest in having a student group that meets for spiritual talks. Matthew Petesch is starting a group for male students. He asked Clare

Smillie to lead one for women. These groups are meeting once a week on Wednesdays during lunch. Fr. John Crutchfield as agreed to visit when he is able to help out.

Teacher Conferences

Teacher Conferences: St. Andrew teachers attended religious education classes in Great Falls with other Catholic School teachers on October 16th. All full time teachers except Mrs. Ahmann who is on maternity leave attended. This is our first year. (Five are required for certification.)

On October 17th we worked on completing for accreditation. Each teacher prepared a teacher folder with evidence need for accreditation and prepared evidence boxes which contained all the information the accreditation curriculum committee would need. We also prepared classrooms and cleaned the school.

All Hallow's Eve and All Saints Day

The All Hallow's Eve Festival was put on by the high school. It was a wonderful day of fun for all the students. All Saints Day presentations were given by grades K-2 on Nov 2nd. This was also a wonderful way to celebrate this great feast day in the Church.

O Happy Adoption Day!

The 3-5th grade students sang in the Capitol Rotunda on Adoption Day. This was the eighteenth year our students have provided music for this event.

Halloween Dance

Student council put on a dance on November 1. In the past though the Halloween dance was one of our best, many parents and students told me that this one was not as exciting for the students. There was many suggestions on how to get the students to dance more, decorate, have fun activities. We could have dance lessons so that students will know what to do.

School Improvements

As I reflect on the last few months it actually comes as somewhat of a surprise that we have been able in such a busy time to accomplish so much in school building and grounds improvements.

- The teacher parking lot turned out nicely thanks to the work of Forrest Zimmerman and Tim Determan. Michelle Field also received a donation from Valley Farms for the rocks and they will landscape this area with bushes. This will take place next spring.
- We were able to turn our copy/teacher prep room into a fairly nice place to be by replacing the floor and having an electrician put in a brighter light.

- Last but not least, you may have noticed some three new signs painted on walls in the office, above the gym and above the Griffin. These were donated by Dan Wing and Alliance Signs.

Teachers

Mrs. Ahmann is on maternity leave this month. She will return to school after Thanksgiving.

I hired Mr. Cormany to take on a study hall for Mr. Greaney, because he did not get enough prep periods when Kate Ferrie decided not to return.

Heather Bell is teaching an extra SAT prep course two days a week for juniors and seniors.

Auction

The auction is off to a slow start this year. Although some of the tasks have been completed, we do not have auction chairs for some of the most important jobs such as procurement, decorating and corporate sponsorship. This week Jenne Caudle put an ad in the newsletter asking for volunteers for these positions. She will call if she does not get the response she needs. In the meantime we began in the office to work on anything that can be done by us. Most of the corporate sponsor letters were done, we reserved rental items, and we are beginning to work on finding parents who can procure.

Gratitude For Giving Dinner

When: Thursday, Dec. 4th, 5:30pm

Where: St. Andrew School Gym

It was suggested that the donor dinner date be moved to December 12.

Budget report:

- Accreditation visit: \$6000 was budgeted; cost was \$6128.
- Marian classes cost \$700
- \$50,000 has been budgeted for scholarship
- \$150,000 for the auction budget this year.
- \$1500 grant from Big Sky Fit Kids
- \$6000 in past due accounts

OLD BUSINESS

Accreditation follow-up

We will continue to work on our strategic plan starting next month.

Principal Evaluation

Chris and Paul will perform. Mark will advise and help out. Previous Evaluation and any evaluation instruments will be gathered by Mark and sent to Chris and Paul

Board Composition and suggestions for new members

We discussed terms of current members and people's wishes for continuing on the board. We also brainstormed some possibilities for new members.

Paul S. will chair Jan-Feb-Mar meetings

Committee for 20th anniversary celebration

Planning still has to begin for this.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Uhl's visit to board.

Donor Dinner

See above

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25. Next meeting: December 8, 2014 at 7 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mark Smillie**