

LAFAYETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: January 27, 2010

Location: Central Catholic

President Jim Roach called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members present:

Representing St. Boniface: Kim Switzer, Brian Thieme

Representing St. Lawrence: Jim Roach, Shawn Siemers

Representing St. Mary: Lara Behr, Stephanie Hainje

Excused: Greg Ortman, Marsha Mulkey

Principals Present : Jody Williams

Technology: Dave Cramer, Steve Edy

Trustee Present:

- I. Prayer & Mission Statement: Lara Behr
- II. Minutes from November 2009 approved.
- III. In Service. No in service at this meeting.
- IV. Open Forum.
 - a. Discounted lunches for qualifying families are not available this year because the schools are participating in the discounted milk program. The discounted lunch program will be available next school year. Families wanted to participate in the lunch program this year that cannot afford it should speak with their principal.
 - b. Suggest that grade schools offer an annual pass for sporting events.
 - c. Kathy Lodde wants to come to an upcoming school board meeting to discuss purchasing a mascot uniform and implementing a mascot at events for Central Catholic. Recommended that she attend the next school board meeting.
 - d. Parents have concerns about orientation and course selection. Course decisions being made during 7th and 8th grade have implications through the high school years. Parents need to be more involved in these decisions. Recommended that communication to parents be improved. Also recommended that parents have opportunity for one-on-one meeting with guidance counselor to discuss course decisions for their children.
 - e. Noreen Beardmore and Angie Schrader presented information on their progress with improving enrollment in the Lafayette Catholic Schools System. Noreen gave a history of how Catholic Schools got started. The schools did not come from wealth or privilege; they were started by immigrants with little money but with much faith. Over time people's values have changed and enrollment challenges have ensued. We are at a critical juncture to increase enrollment. Angie Schrader reviewed current and recent enrollment trends for LCSS. She also described the current strategies being used to attract and enroll more students. Noreen

and Angie are asking the School Board members to send ideas to further increase enrollment to them, to look for opportunities for increase enrollment, and to be ambassadors of the LCSS to potential new families and students.

V. Reports

- a. Technology. Steve Edy and Dave Cramer presented the technology report. (see attached report).
 - i. This summer we plan to upgrade to a fiber optic network, replacing the current DSL line.
 - ii. The current bandwidth is similar to many residential users (3 mbps), but instead of having one or two computers using it we have nearly 200.
 - iii. The fiber system proposed by Wintek would provide 100 mbps connection to the Internet, along with a 1 gb connection between the schools.
 - iv. In the future, the fiber connection will give the opportunity to replace existing phone system; allow voice mail messages to be sent via email; eliminate the cost of tape backup systems at each school; centralize administrative programs at CC; integrate video streaming and distance learning; provide efficient remote access.
 - v. Both Comcast and Wintek have provided bids with Wintek's bid the lowest. Wintek's bid also provides greater connection speeds.
 - vi. Funds for the project will be raised at the Blue Knight Auction.

- b. Principals.
 - i. St. Boniface. No report.
 - ii. St. Lawrence. Jody Williams presented the report.
 1. St. Lawrence collected over 1,500 books for the Lafayette Area Christian Schools book drive.
 2. 5 families attended *Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten*.
 3. The 3rd grade class came in first place and the 4th, 5th, and 6th classes came in third place at the Lafayette Area Christian Schools Math Competition.
 4. One family participated in Coffee with the Principal on January 20th.
 5. St. Lawrence spelling bee was January 21st with Rachel Gillam (grade 6) as the top speller.
 6. Hot lunches from C.C. began on January 19th. Thank you to Joanne Bundy for all of her work in getting this going.
 7. We have paired up with St. Anthony Health Care to exchange Valentines.
 8. D.A.R.E begins February 12th for the 5th graders.

- 9. Preparing for Education Fair on February 20th.
- 10. Catholic Schools week is next week.
- iii. St. Mary. No report.
- iv. Central Catholic. No report.

- c. Governance Board. Jim Roach.
 - i. The new budget is complete.
 - ii. There will be a 3 ½% increase in tuition for next year.
 - iii. An extracurricular fee has been added.

- d. Old Business.
 - i. Many Things (formerly Carpenter's Son) will continue to offer uniforms for sale.
 - ii. Diane Teder (St. Michael's Books) has expressed interest in learning more about uniform sales.

- e. New Business.
 - i. Stephanie asked about who is responsible for monitoring the curriculum and the assessment requirements for each class. Jody said the curriculum is set by the diocese (which meets or exceeds state standards). Assessment is managed by the principals.
 - ii. Jody discussed the potential need for a formal truancy policy for the LCSS. Jody provided two example letters used by the public schools that enable information to be forwarded to the court system for students that are truant.
 - 1. The public school system has a truancy policy, whereas LCSS does not.
 - 2. Jim will suggest to governance board the need to add this policy.
 - iii. Policy Review Schedule
 - 1. Every 3 years the LCSS School Board policies are reviewed.
 - 2. The School Board will begin reviewing each policy sequentially, beginning with policy 100 at the next meeting.

VI. Jim Roach adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held at St. Boniface on February 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Siemers