

## LAFAYETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: January 26, 2011

Location: St. Central Catholic

President Jim Roach called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### Members present:

Representing St. Boniface: Kim Switzer, Brian Thieme, Matt Krane

Representing St. Lawrence: Marsha Mulkey, Jim Roach

Representing St. Mary: Lara Behr, Stephanie Hainje

Excused: Shawn Siemers

### Guests:

Morgan Holiday and his mother LouAnn Holiday sat in as part of their Boy Scout program.

Brandy Ellison with ACE Consulting

### I. Prayer & Mission Statement: Jim Roach

### II. Minutes

- a. Minutes from November were approved. Brian motioned, Marsha 2nd. Approved.
- b. Minutes from October were submitted and will be approved via email

### III. In Service.

No In Service at this meeting.

### IV. Open Forum.

- a. A question was raised about the Teacher Endowment Fund. What is it? How does it work? Jim said he would ask the governance board and put the question on the February agenda.

### V. Reports

#### a. Technology.

Steve Eddy submitted his report via email.

The 2 main items to report are that Kim Granlund is now the tech coordinator for the elementaries. She will cut back her hours at St. B and devote the time to her tech duties. Also, at CC we got our teachers set up on the state Dept of Ed Learning Connection website which gives them access to detailed information about each of their students, including ISTEP and End of Course Assessment results. This will help us tailor our instruction to meet the students' individual needs. I'll report on this in more detail at the next meeting.

#### b. General

Shawn Siemers attending a meeting about School Choice on January 24<sup>th</sup> in Kokomo. He was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded his information via email.

Below are some key points from last night's meeting you might want to share with the BOE.

- The proposed bill in the Indiana House does not offer universal vouchers (vouchers that each and every student can use at the school of their choice).
- The bill offers vouchers for children that qualify based on income qualifications. At this point the cut off is for any student from a family that earns up to 250% of the qualification for free and reduced lunch program.
- The state estimates it costs \$7,000 to educate a child in the public schools. If they meet the income requirements they can then use their "voucher" (actually it is referred to as a scholarship credit) to attend a private school. The private school would be only be reimbursed the actual tuition amount (the amount the child would have to pay to attend the private school even if they didn't have a voucher). So, if the private school's tuition is \$4,000, they would get reimbursed \$4,000, not \$7,000.
- The state is pushing for this bill because they want to save money, not support private schools. Their logic is they can get students that normally cost \$7,000 to educate to go to private schools that have less tuition. For each child the state sends to a private school that costs \$4,000, the state is saving \$3,000
  - And that poses one problem with the bill. The voucher would not apply to students that are already enrolled in private schools. It will only apply to students that transfer in. So, students currently enrolled in the LCSS would not be eligible for this program, regardless of income level. A student can only be considered for the program if they had spent their previous two semesters in the public school system.
  - This also applies to Kindergarten. Students enrolling in LCSS for kindergarten are not eligible. If they attended public school kindergarten and then transfer to LCSS in first grade, then they are eligible.
  - Even though the program does not cover existing students, the program is definitely a step in the right direction. The program could boost LCSS's enrollment overall. It could also ease some of the pressure on the existing tuition reimbursement program because students transferring in that qualify for the vouchers would not be seeking tuition reimbursement funds.
- They stressed last night that the bill has a long way to go before it is approved and that many, many changes to the bill are likely before it ever can reach the governor's desk.

- c. Principals.
  - i. St. Boniface. No report
  - ii. St. Lawrence. No report
  - iii. St. Mary. No report.
  - iv. Central Catholic. No report.

VI. Old Business.

- a. Truancy Policy
  - i. Rough draft of Truancy policy is with Jody Williams and was being taken to the next principals meeting. Stephanie will follow up with Jody to see how the process is going and when we can get a 1<sup>st</sup> reading on the agenda.

VII. New Business.

- a. Policies 108 and 109.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of policy 108. Reviewed. No changes. Lara approves. Stephanie 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> reading of policy 109. Reviewed. Motion to approve the policy after suggested changes – Stephanie 1<sup>st</sup>, Marsha 2<sup>nd</sup>. Changes suggested are as follows:
    - 1. reformat with new font
    - 2. what is the diocese protocol policy? Who keeps track of who has qualified? Is it different for staff and volunteers?
    - 3. Lara stated she would make some phone calls and present additional information at the February meeting.

VI. Jim Roach adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The next meeting will be held at St. Boniface on February 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Focus Group with Ace Consulting followed the general meeting for Board of Education members only.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Switzer