

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 7, 2015

In Attendance: Angie Tucker (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, John Dickhaus, Janet Davis, Brian Baurichter, Laura Brausch, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: none

Guest: Mark Armstrong, Business Manager; Liz Ingram, School Principal

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Tucker.

Opening Prayer/Faith Formation: Sarah Holland began the meeting with a prayer thanking God for the blessings bestowed upon us and asking the Lord to help us follow His path. The prayer was followed by a reading of Isaiah 55:1-11. That reading proclaims that we should seek the Lord while He may be found and that God will renew us with an everlasting covenant.

The Council members reflected upon the reading agreeing that God accepts everyone unconditionally but also that some people do not always accept God unconditionally. While God always gives us a second chance and forgives us, we don't always allow ourselves to be forgiven.

Minutes: The minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting were approved with edits.

Presentation by St. Bernadette's Finance Committee: Mark Armstrong informed the Council members that the original projected budget for the current fiscal year (July 2014-June 2015) reflected a deficit between \$10,000 and \$25,000. At this time, however, it appears the deficit may approach \$75,000. This is due to the cost of security measures installed at the school, classroom conversion, and increase in health care costs.

Health care costs have increased from \$10,300 per month in November 2013 to the current monthly cost of \$16,030. The increase is not due to the cost of the insurance itself but with the number of people now covered by the policy.

In 2012, the school ministry experienced a \$331,000 shortfall. That was reduced to \$171,000 last year. For this fiscal year, the operation deficit is projected at \$265,000 due primarily to the loss of pre-school students who can now attend pre-school at other nearby parishes.

Mr. Armstrong informed the Council that while Sunday collections are meeting budget expectations, the reduction in the number of pre-school students and the loss of Bingo revenue will have an impact. While the Finance Committee continues to explore expense reductions and new sources of revenue, a request for Stievenard Funds may be made later in the year.

John Dickhaus reminded the other Council members that there is a lot of "old stuff" around the parish that will eventually need to be replaced.

Discussion: Use of Ball Fields: Mark Armstrong continued by updating the Council on the status of the parish ball fields. Most of the work associated with the fields is performed by volunteers or at minimum costs by parishioners. Even so, the fields result in a net operating

loss. Sufficient volunteers for the long term are not assured and the ball fields also represent a liability issue for the parish. The tractor used to maintain the fields may need to be replaced in the near future. In short, the long-term viability of the ball fields is questionable. Council agreed that more information is needed before making any decision on this issue.

Note: More detailed financial information from Mr. Armstrong is provided on the attached sheet.

Capital Campaign Update: Fr. Bill informed the Council that an executive meeting will be conducted on January 14 to discuss the upcoming campaign.

Planning for Parish Transition – 2017: Pastoral Regions Follow-Up: Fr. Bill reminded the Council that St. Bernadette is not merging with St. Thomas More. Rather, we are forming a Collaborative Region with them.

As a follow-up to the December 2014 meeting, Fr. Bill provided the names of local parishes that have undergone or are undergoing a conversion to a Collaborative Region. Council Members agreed to contact those parishes to learn from their experience.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Bill announced that Moye Chen, the Gold Medalist of the World Piano Competition, will be performing a free program on Thursday, January 29 at 10:00 AM in Ventura Hall.

Parish Voice:

- Janet Davis presented three concerns:
 1. Accessible parking spaces near the Church (Chairperson Tucker will remind choir members not to park in the area designated for accessible parking.)
 2. Provide update on the Stievenard Fund to parish
 3. Provide more missals
- Laura Brausch provided positive feedback on the "Welcome" brochure distributed during Christmas services. Several other Council members concurred.
- John Dickhaus inquired about the positioning of additional chairs for the Christmas masses. Fr. Bill indicated that they were very helpful. John also said that a meeting was to be held on January 11 at 10:15 AM to present the Reds fundraising activity.
- Chairperson Tucker informed the Council members that she is waiting for some comments on the draft constitution and hopes to have a discussion at the next meeting.
- Sarah Holland reminded all of the Mardi Gras event on Saturday, February 14. The cost will be \$35. She is also looking for services that can be made into gift cards for a raffle.
- Brian Baurichter invited everyone to the Catholicism sessions that will begin on January 11 at 12:30 PM in the Stievenard Hall.

Closing Prayer: Sarah Holland offered a prayer asking the Lord to help us hunger and thirst for His nourishment alone.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

<p>Please note: Pastoral Council will conduct a Stievenard Meeting on Monday February 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM. The Council will then meet in regular session afterwards at 7:00 PM.</p>
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Minutes Approved: March 16, 2015

<u>Financial Look at the numbers</u>	<u>1/27/2015</u>		<u>Parish Council Meeting</u>			
	Surplus/(Deficit) including bequest	Bequest	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	School Revenue All Sources including Preschool	School Expenses	School ministry support from the parish
Fiscal Year* 2011-2012	\$116,348.00	\$250,000.00	(\$133,652.00)	643,457.00	975,076.00	(\$331,619.00)
Fiscal Year 2012-2013	(\$45,108.00)	\$0.00	(\$45,108.00)	823,086.00	1,084,632.00	(\$261,546.00)
Fiscal Year 2013-2014	\$66,573.00	\$50,000.00	\$16,573.00	1,003,060.00	1,174,678.00	(\$171,618.00)
Projections for 2014-2015	(\$75,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$75,000.00)	934,992.00	1,200,236.00	(\$265,244.00) **

footnotes: * Fiscal Years run July 1st to June 30th

** Includes teacher salary/benefits overhaul, and loss of 15 Preschoolers (\$35,000 in tuition) to St. Thomas Moore and IHM preschool startups

Recap

- Health Care** has become a larger expense for us this year, not because of premium increases (which have been a small percentage the last two years), but because of our employees being kicked off of their spouses plans and having to add single coverage on our plan. Single costs the parish \$ 7,596/ yr and the family plan costs the parish \$ 17,664/year. Due to our growing school and the changes in the health care law, we have added over \$25,000 to our bottom line in the past two months without anyone's take home pay increasing 1 cent.
- We have a about \$26,000 in remodeling the art and music rooms, as well as security upgrades that have not been covered by donations that I will ask the Stievenard committee to reimburse the parish.
- We currently have 194 students in K-8 and another 35 in Preschool. We lost 15 in preschool this school year to new competition at STM and IHM.

Ball Fields Summary \$1200 in revenue for non festival events and a minimum of \$1200 in expenses for cutting the grass with no other expenses included for equipment or field maintenance. Is there a reason to maintain the insurance exposure for one men's league and one coed league when we aren't covering our cost. Effect on festival revenue and identity? Possible relocation of festival grounds as we loose trees in existing location? Improved parking may grow our festival? May need space for school expansion?