

**William V. Fisher Catholic High School
School Board Minutes
August 14, 2008**

Members Present: Vince Messerly, Fr. Franks, Tony Coakley, Tom Andrews, Pam Dodds, Cathy DeGenova, Brett Conrad, Jim Silcott, President/Principal of Fisher Catholic High School, and Kellie Shonk, Recording Secretary.

Prayer: Fr. Franks

Approval of Minutes: Pam Dodds and Tom Andrews

Approval of Agenda: Approved by the Board.

BUSINESS:

Vince Messerly, President talked about the new Advisory Board Constitution that the board has adopted. In the past, there were several different versions floating around.

Vince Messerly welcomed new board member, Tony Coakley, Representative of St. Mark Church.

Mr. Silcott had not received an answer from pastors about the "Opt-in" or Opt-out" form he had sent them. Fr. Franks said not to be concerned with the priest so this will not effect the voting in the Quorum.

REPORTS:

Principal:

Mr. Silcott invited the Board to look at the classrooms of the future after the meeting. Maintenance has worked very hard getting the school ready for the 2008-2009 school year. Patrick Wood's father & Dawn Burley's husband have been a big help too. Joyce King, Dawn Burley, Kellie Shonk and Mike McCann have also been hard at work all summer.

As of today we have 270 students registered for 2008-09 school year. (We budgeted for 263). There are 80 freshmen and 56 seniors. The senior class is the smallest class to go through Fisher Catholic. It has been small since elementary school. Tuition is the main reason for families leaving Fisher Catholic.

Mr. Silcott has been in contact with principals from the surrounding elementary schools for recruiting purposes. St. Mary School has another big 8th grade class. We have an Open House scheduled for November 2nd.

Have 2 new teachers and guidance counselor. The new Guidance Counselor, Jamie Kirby has been hard at work for three weeks getting schedules out.

Freshmen Orientation is Monday, August 18th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Teachers will have meetings for three days starting Monday, August 18th. The first day of school, Thursday August 21 will be a fun day for the students. We are going to have a Christian Rock Band.

Bell Schedule has hit a snag. A letter was sent to Lancaster High School in April to let them know of the change and make sure they can work with the schedule. Lancaster High School just called Tuesday, August 12th and said they have a problem with our Bell Schedule. We are still waiting for an answer.

We are having heating/cooling problems in the main gym. The problem appears to be fixed for now but will need attention in the future.

Classrooms of the future are 95% complete. They will be done by the first day of school.

Pastor Report:

Fr. Franks sent letters to 22 priests to invite them to St. Mary's September 8th. Fr. Franks also sent them information about what is going on this year school. Example: retreats, Kairos, etc. Our Patronal Feast is tomorrow night. All of the St. Mary elementary and junior high has cancelled athletic practices so parents and their children will be able to attend the Mass.

St. Mary School has registered 432 students for the 2008-2009 school year. This number is down about 40 from last year. Budgeted for 440 students. Fr. Franks believes gas prices are a factor in families from surrounding areas not coming to St. Mary this year.

Finance:

The Preliminary Budget is done. Bill Davis from the Diocese will start going to all Foundation Meetings. An Audit was done last week. The uncollected tuition was half of what it was the previous year.

The \$70,000 that the Foundation gives to the school will be used for financial assistance. \$60,000 of the \$70,000 financial aid money has been earmarked for specific families. We held back \$10,000 for any emergencies that might come up with families this school year.

The Brenden Krannitz Scholarship of \$4,000 helped 4 families.

Policy adopted last year that the principal can not make deals for tuition payments. A structured format has been used this year. Families must first fill out the diocesan tuition assistance form to be eligible for assistance. This makes it clear what each family is capable of providing. Our goal is to help every family who needs it.

Mary Botta Money:

The Mary Botta money is presently in the parish aide fund. It is a big concern of the School Board where the rest of the Mary Botta money is going to go. According to past Board minutes the Board and the Principal agree that part of the money should go into the Foundation for future endowment. We must wait for all of the bills to come in from the capital repairs and construction to see how much money is actually left. Technically, Bill Davis is the only one who can approve money coming out of the Mary Botta Fund. Brett Conrad suggests that we look at other Foundations that just the Fisher Foundation.

Athletics:

Sherry Orlando is doing a great job as president of the Athletic Association. Raffle Tickets are out. Athletic Passes are being processed. Athletic Association has taken care of the cost of the student athletic passes. Fisher Catholic is the only school who honors Golden Buckeye Cards. This school year, Athletics is 100% self-sufficient. Dawn Burley is doing a great job of making sure everything is approved before paying bills or any coach makes a purchase. Mike McCann and Sherry Orlando are working well together. Tony Delisio started the ground work for Sherry. The Athletic Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month. All coaches' positions are filled for fall, winter and spring sports with the exception of Boys Tennis in the spring. Bob Roush is willing to stay if we do not find a coach.

Building:

The Building looks great. New improvements to the floors

Old Business:

No Report

New Business:

We have established the Substance abuse plan and a committee. The committee is made up of the following people: Robert Dominquez, Troy & Greer Edwards, Tim & Colleen Tobin, Peggie Griffin, Tiffany Wade, Eric Spiegel & Jim Silcott. The plan was looked over by an attorney. Some changes were made to the plan. Pam Dodds voiced concerns about students feeling intimidated into confessing to something they did not do. She also ask the question about is it legal to question a student without a parent being present. Mr. Silcott said that legally the student loses his or her rights at the front door. He feels that it is best to address any issues immediately. Pam Dodds stressed that there should always be two adults in the room when a student is being questioned. Mr. Silcott assured Pam that there are always two adults present. A student can not be suspended without the administration contacting the parents first. It is legal for the administration to check a student's locker if they suspect something illegal is in the locker. The Dioceses does not support using drug dogs for random locker searches. They will support if it is a community issue. This also applies to drug testing. The school is allowed to perform the alcohol strip because it is not as invasive to the student.

The board also brought up concerns about gossip among parents, student and faculty & staff. Teachers need to be more aware of confidentiality and not allow students to steer them off track during class.

Student Handbook/ Drug Substance Abuse Plan:

Approved by: Brett Conrad. Second by Cathy DeGenova

Duties of President, Secretary and Recording Secretary:

Vince Messerly read from the Advisory Board Constitution the duties of the President, the Secretary and the Recording Secretary.

Nominations for 3 School Board Positions:

Cathy DeGenova nominates Tom Andrews for President. Tom accepts the nomination. Tom Andrews nominates Brett Conrad for Vice-President. Brett accepts the nomination. Pam Dodds nominates Karen Wolfe for Secretary. Karen is Absence from the meeting. Vince Messerly nominates Cathy DeGenova for Secretary. Cathy accepts the nomination. The Board took a vote and Cathy DeGenova is the Secretary.

Motion to close Vote:

Approved by: Vince Messerly and Pam Dodds

New Members are effective immediately.

Brett Conrad wants Vince Messerly to work close with Tom Andrews, the new School Board President. Tom Andrews wants to be even more productive as a school board not just question Mr. Silcott at every school board meeting.

Next Meeting to discuss:

1. Standing Committees.
2. Student wellness
3. Mary Botta Funds
4. Goals for this Board over the next year.

Next School Board Meeting will be September 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Library.