

## **St. Augustin Parish Council Meeting**

**June 11, 2019**

### **St. Augustin Church Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** Pat Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32.

**Present:** Father Christopher Pisut, Pat Smith, Marianne Dowd, Karen Pierick, Colin Riemersma, Nick Bigelow, John Knight, Paul Martin, Christen Cota

**Absent:** John Gilbert, Sherill Whisenand, Matt Eide

**Also Present:** Kristel Kautzky, school Principal; Randy Mudge, Business Manager; Sherri Nielsen, Board of Education

**Approval of April minutes:** Carried (Marianne moved, Colin 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**New members:** The Parish Council offered its gratitude to Pat Smith and Paul Martin, who completed their terms as members. We also welcomed Christen Cota to the PC, as well as Matt Eide (in absentia). John Knight begins his second term as a PC member. We will elect new officers at the August meeting.

**New Business Manager:** Randy Mudge introduced himself as the new Business Manager for the parish. He expressed that among his priorities is achieving a budget that is self-sustaining and does not draw from the Foundation, as well as transparency in communicating budgetary issues.

**Feast Day:** This year's Feast Day celebration will be held on Saturday, August 24. Maria Tovar has agreed to chair the committee, which will hold an initial meeting this month.

**Scholarship:** In May, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines sent an invitation to select school families inviting them to contribute to an independent endowment entitled the Dr. Nancy O'Neill Dowdle Saint Augustin Scholarship Fund. Neither the pastor, the business manager, the Finance Council, nor the director of the Centennial Campaign were informed of this. Concerns were expressed about the clarity, the independent nature of this fund, and the leadership of BOE families in it. The scholarship was explained as a way to honor the retiring principal; to aid underprivileged students; and to offer an avenue for school families to contribute if they have no intention of giving to the Campaign. Furthermore, it was not a BOE initiative. Father Pisut said he will have a constructive conversation with the BOE at its next meeting.

**First Communion:** Nick asked about the level of participation by the children at the First Communion mass in May, as well as the cohesion of RE and school children. Father Pisut and Christen expressed that "participation" needs to prioritize a focus on the sacrament; in addition, nerves can distract first communicants if they are involved in cantoring or lecturing. Nick will talk with Janis Falk ahead of time next year so that first communicants can bring up the gifts.

**Centennial Campaign:** The spring campaign efforts resulted in pledges totaling \$1.8 million. The campaign is not officially over, considering the pledges are paid over the course of three years. Lynch Development is still helping for a few more months. Father Pisut praised the PC for 100% participation in it, though some concerns were raised about the repeated publication of names; anonymity was an option, but that has its drawbacks as well. The \$100K pledge by a donor for reaching the \$2 million level is still in effect.

**Board of Education:** (Karen, Sherri, and Kristel) At the June meeting, Jerry Deegan updated the BOE on diocesan work on Catholic education feasibility resulting from the Meitler report – setting up regions, conferring with pastors, addressing full enrollment, and pooling resources. The BOE also elected officers (Christy Sullivan will continue as president) and welcomed new members Tim Coonan and Jennifer Lorbiecki. For enhanced building security, additional security cameras and a second set of entry doors are to be installed. The schools is also addressing landscaping issues that resulted from the new driveway. Two students from China will join the student body this coming year.

**Finance:** (Randy) The Finance Council will meet later this month, but Randy reported that he is getting acclimated. He plans to offer a monthly breakdown of our budget in addition to aforementioned priorities. We have received two quotes on replacement of the school roof, including one from a parishioner's company.

**Buildings & Grounds:** B&G will meet later this month. The first Centennial Campaign project is underway: tuckpointing the square steeple and strengthening its bond with the long roof. Praise was also offered for the painted southwest entry door.

**Parish Life:** The Corpus Christi Procession went smoothly and enjoyed mild weather. The heart of Saint John Vianney display received positive reviews, but parishioners would have appreciated greater/earlier notice. Marianne requested that a listing of recently deceased parishioners be included in the bulletin, which Father agreed to institute. There will be a New Parishioner reception after the 5:00 mass on Saturday, June 22; PC members are encouraged to attend.

**Principal:** Kristel said she is assembling a School Improvement Committee this summer, composed of a cross-section of stakeholders in the parish-school community; let her know if you are interested in participating.

**Adjournment:** 7:38 pm. NO July meeting – next meeting is Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bigelow