

**SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010
SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Fr. Michael McDevitt, Fr. Fergus Monaghan, Msgr. Thomas E. Reidy, Dave Duncan, John Ghirardelli, Rich Horton, David Straus, Amy DeMelo, and Jean Gruetzemacher

ABSENT: Fr. Denis Dougherty, Fr. Lewis Hejna, Fr. Daniel Robles, Tom Barr, George Harmon, and Karen Latham

GUESTS: The Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; Ms. Jan Smith, Diocesan Director of Finance; and Mr. Leon Witt, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

OPENING PRAYER: Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. opened the meeting with a prayer.

AD HOC RECOMMENDATION: Bishop Johnston commended the accomplishments of the recent high school graduates and the Springfield Catholic Schools community. He thanked the Board for including him this evening and allowing him to share feedback received by him from the Ad Hoc Committee that was formed to study various issues related to the current model of operation for the Springfield Catholic School System. Bishop Johnston noted the Ad Hoc Committee was formed based on the recommendation made by the School Board regarding St. Joseph School and his final decision.

Bishop Johnston noted the need to evaluate the system model and study the ramifications to the system, St. Joseph School, and the community when a school departs from the system. In addition to responding to several questions posed by Bishop Johnston, the committee studied the current system model, the system finances, organizational structure and responsibility, and clarification of roles and responsibility. Bishop Johnston stated he received the Ad Hoc Committee report from Msgr. Reidy, chairman of the committee. He referred to the handouts that were mailed in the monthly packet, noting the recommendations and sharing his thoughts on each. Bishop Johnston reported the Diocesan School Board will be reactivated to write additional policies, or change current policies, for the diocesan school manual as needed for use in a system school model. He noted that he would have the final say in any policies recommended by the Diocesan School Board. Bishop Johnston stated he is considering additional language for clarification purposes to the governance or lines of authority of system schools. Bishop Johnston reported an expanded committee will be formed to study the current and other potential methods of financing Catholic education in the Springfield area. This committee has been directed by Bishop Johnston to present its recommendation(s) to him by December 1, 2010. Some discussion followed. Bishop Johnston thanked Msgr. Reidy for chairing the Ad Hoc Committee and the members of the committee for their work, noting some clarity and modifications may be made to the recommendations. He opened the meeting for discussion. Lengthy discussion ensued. Some of the topics discussed were the role of pastors at

the high school, members of the Diocesan School Board and when it will meet, the possibility of applying for government bonds to help fund capital projects, the work of the expanded Ad Hoc Committee, funding of Catholic education both locally and nationally, and the possible inclusion of the Development Board in capital campaign projects undertaken by parishes that subsidize the school system.

Bishop Johnston closed by noting his appreciation for the support provided by the school system and the Board to St. Joseph School during its years as a school in the system. He noted the importance of the Board in its efforts to focus on the Springfield Catholic School System but also encouraged a relationship of support and communion between the system and St. Joseph Catholic Academy. The Board thanked Bishop Johnston for his attendance.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: A motion was made by John Ghirardelli and seconded by David Straus to approve the May minutes as written. The May minutes were approved 7-0-0 as written.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave reported the committee set the agenda.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amy stated there are no Financial Statements due to the rescheduling of the School Board meeting for this evening. She noted the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet next Monday. Margaret stated the annual financial compilation by BKD will take place in July. The end of the year financial report will be presented by BKD in August.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Amy thanked those who recently attend the elementary and/or high school graduations. She commended the students on their accomplishments and the Catholic community on its support to the system. Some discussion followed.

Amy reported many teachers in the system, including teachers from St. Joseph School, have chosen to attend SMART board training offered by the system.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Jean referred to and reported from a handout of the current year-to-date Gift Summary Report, noting the number of donors and total funds donated in excess of one million dollars.

Jean stated a congratulatory ad to the class of 2010 will appear in Sunday's issue of *The News-Leader*.

Jean reported *Connections* is at the printer and will be mailed in the near future. It will be highlighting the elementary and high school graduates.

Jean announced reservations for Dancing with OUR Stars-Season Three, scheduled for Saturday, August 28, can be made beginning on June 15. They can be purchased on-line at www.scspk12.org or by calling the Central Office at 865-5567.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Relations Committee – No meeting was held.

Finance Committee – Will be meeting on Monday, June 7, as regularly scheduled.

Salary & Benefits Committee – No meeting was held.

Long Range Planning Committee – No meeting was held.

SCHS Maintenance & Construction Activities Committee – Dr. Dilg reminded the Board it had approved funding to the high school from maintenance reserves of \$25,000 for resealing, paving, and striping of the parking lot. He reported the committee reviewed three (3) bids and noted the decision of which company to use for this work. He also reported further discussion took place with regard to placement of a gate at the entrance to the parking lot.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Amend School Board Constitution and Bylaws – Amy referred to the handout of the amended “Constitution and Bylaws of the Springfield Catholic School Board,” noting the need for a vote to accept them as amended. Amy reviewed the changes based on the separation of St. Joseph School from the system and changes to St. Joseph and Sacred Heart parishes as non-subsidizing parishes to the school system. She noted the amended constitution and bylaws reflect changes in representation on the Board and Board committees. A motion was made by Rich Horton and seconded by Fr. Fergus to approve the “Constitution and Bylaws of the Springfield Catholic School Board” as amended. The motion was approved 7-0-0. Msgr. Reidy suggested providing *To Teach as Jesus Did* to lay members on the Board.

B. Enrollment Report for 2010-2011 – Amy referred to and reported from the handout of current enrollment figures for the 2010-2011 school year. She explained NFR (not fully registered) and NR (not registered). Amy stated the system is in a better position now than it was last year, based on the enrollment figures noted on the handout. She noted more accurate figures will be available after tuition payments are received during the summer. Amy noted the attached handout as enrollment figures at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Amy noted the deletion of DESE standards for classroom capacity from the enrollment report until a better understanding of it is gained. A revised budget will be presented in October based on enrollment numbers reported by the schools at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Some discussion followed.

C. Present Slate of Officers for 2010-2011 – Dave stated the slate of officers for 2010-2011 was nominated in May. Kathy presented the slate of officers for 2010-11 as follows: the slate for President is Dave Duncan and the slate for Vice-President is John Ghirardelli. A blank

line appears on the ballots for nominations from the floor. Dave stated the floor is open for additional nominations. No additional nominations were made.

D. Election of 2010-2011 School Board Officers – Ballots for the office of President for 2010-2011 were distributed, collected, and tallied. Dave Duncan was elected President of the School Board for 2010-2011.

Ballots for the office of Vice-President for 2010-2011 were distributed, collected, and tallied. John Ghirardelli was elected Vice-President of the School Board for 2010-2011.

E. Formation of Three-Year-Old Preschool Program Committee – Dave stated the need for the formation of a committee to meet and discuss the feasibility of starting a three-year-old preschool program in the future at Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes, or another location. Some discussion followed. A committee was formed to be comprised of Fr. Lewis Hejna, Fr. Mike McDevitt, Fr. Fergus Monaghan, Rich Horton, Jeanne Skahan, John Ghirardelli, and Debbie Howell. Jeanne Skahan volunteered to chair the committee. Dave asked the committee to make a recommendation to the School Board when it convenes for the 2010-2011 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Seek Permission to Approve Contracts during Summer Months – Amy stated some contracted positions have not yet been filled and noted the need for contracts to be signed before the Board meets in August. She sought permission from the Board that would allow the administrators to offer contracts to teachers, the Executive Committee to approve contracts, and the School Board President to sign contracts prior to the August School Board meeting. Dave assured the Board that a parish priest would also be involved in the process. A motion was made by Msgr. Reidy and seconded by David Straus allowing for the approval and signing of contracts as stated prior to the August School Board meeting. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

B. Discuss School Board Committee Assignments for 2010-2011 – Dave requested that Board members share his/her specific preference with him for service on a School Board committee during the 2010-2011 school year. He stated the list of committees would be e-mailed to each Board member. Committee assignments will be announced in August. Dave encouraged participation by all.

C. Present 2010-2011 School Board Meeting Dates – Dave referred to a handout of the tentative 2010-2011 meeting dates for the School Board, noting the regular monthly meeting date as the second Thursday of each month, August through June. He drew attention to the June 9, 2011 meeting date as conflicting with the annual Priests' Retreat. The Board agreed to change the June 2011 School Board meeting date to Thursday, June 2, 2011. Dr. Dilg suggested moving the location of School Board meetings from the Cafeteria to the Library due to increased usage of the cafeteria for various events. Some discussion followed. School Board meetings will be held in the high school Library unless otherwise noted.

D. Recognition of Out-Going School Board Members – Dave stated those who are leaving the School Board are not in attendance and will be invited to the August meeting for recognition.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Msgr. Reidy suggested a thank-you letter be sent to Bishop Johnston for his attendance and presentation this evening.

Some further discussion of the expanded Ad Hoc Committee occurred. Dave suggested that John Ghirardelli, as in-coming Development Board President replacing Bill Hennessey, be invited to serve as a member of the expanded Ad Hoc Committee.

A motion was made by Fr. Mike and seconded by Fr. Fergus to adjourn into Executive Session. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.