

# HOLY GHOST SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Preschool Classroom

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Andrea Trovato

Call of Role: Christine Simonides

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Andrea Trovato	President	Present
Bridget Fallon	Vice President	Present
Christine Simonides	Secretary	Present
Josephine Dellaria	PSA Director	Present
John Jablonski	Finance Officer	Absent

## EX-OFFICIO:

Diana Mendez	Principal	Present
Rev. Kevin Farrell	Pastor	Absent

## GUESTS:

Jennifer Anaya	Natalie Krygier	Maria Seamens
Pat Cantarelli	Nancy Minard	Deb Skotnicki
Gia De Bartolo	Vicki Palumbo	Lori Vasilivech
Tracy Fernandez	Sharri Ptak	Ramon & Elizabeth Vorne
Boguslaw Kowalski	Juliet Rago	

A review of the Holy Ghost School Board policies and procedures was given for all guests. An explanation of how and when to ask questions and participate in topics was discussed.

## Review of Minutes:

Minutes of February 2, 2010 approved and posted on Holy Ghost School Website

## Pastor's Report:

Father Kevin - No report

## Administrator's Report:

Diana Mendez

- Registration materials sent home March 1<sup>st</sup>. Announced no increase for the 2010/2011 academic year.
- St. Peter's registration is ready
- Catholic Mutual made presentation to 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- New smart boards, projectors and 24 hand-held response systems were ordered for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. All classrooms will soon have smart boards
- Committee of two principals and diocese members to select teachers for new school. Process should be complete in early April. All teachers who want to teach at new school need to reapply.
- Sleep cots were purchased for the preschool room

**President's Report:**

Andrea Trovato - No report

**Vice President's Report:**

Bridget Fallon

Paid dues to join Illinois Coalition of Non-Public Schools.

Sent approximately 58-signed letters to Governor's office regarding reinstating the textbook subsidy for schools.

**Secretary's Report:**

Christine Simonides

Would like a discussion of a marketing and community involvement arm of school board once the new board is in place.

**PSA Director's Report:**

Josephine Dellaria

- Pancake breakfast raised approximately \$1,400 for Haiti
- School received Target Grant of approximately \$800. The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending the symphony at Orchestra Hall.
- PSA planning a Mayan Water Park night for March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Market Day – Holy Ghost is the highest selling school in the Market Day program.

**Old Business**

Merge Committee - Jennifer Anaya

Recap of the initial meeting with representatives of St. Peter the Apostle and the diocese. Committee members from both schools arranging a St. Peter's only Open House to address any questions regarding the merge, teachers, tuition, etc. and a tour of the school. Open House set for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Business**

School Board considering a Family Night for both St. Peter families and Holy Ghost families. An ice cream social is being tossed around for April/May.

Questions from guests regarding the merger of St. Peter the Apostle and Holy Ghost Schools:

- ***Why was Holy Ghost Chosen?***

After a two-year study of the schools including facilities and infrastructure, HGS was chosen. Both schools have a long list of positive attributes and some negatives. For example, St. Peter's is a two-story building with no current ADA capabilities being a concern. Holy Ghost has the gym, and is already wired for technology.

- ***Are we changing our name and getting new uniforms? What will they be?***

A name change will likely occur as mandated by the diocese. New uniforms will be established, most likely the year after next. What the name and uniforms will be is currently unknown.

- ***Who will be the teachers and when will we know?***

All teachers who would like to teach at the new school will need to reapply for a position. Only teachers from St. Peter's and Holy Ghost will be considered for the job. A committee of two principals (not from St. Peter's or HGS) and members of the Catholic Schools Office will select teachers. It is possible that current teachers may not be teaching the same grade. Who the teachers will be should be known early April.

- ***How can we help the teachers, can we write letters?***

If you wish to write a letter of recommendation or comment on a teacher you may do so. Letters can be written and given to Diana Mendez. Documentation will be placed in teachers' files.

- ***How many children per class and will there be aides?***

Classrooms can take 35 students each. An aide may be provided for full classrooms in the lower grades. All currently enrolled children from both schools will be accepted. Large classes may be separated into groups and studying subjects at alternate times.

- ***How will registration be handled?***

Registration will begin March 1, 2010 and be open to all students currently enrolled in Holy Ghost and St. Peter's schools. April 1, 2010 enrollment becomes open to anyone else who wishes to attend the new school. Enrollment is on first come first serve basis, priority is not given to either school.

There is a wait list for families outside these two parishes wishing to come to our school.

- ***Who gets the \$500/child scholarship offered by the Diocese?***

Those children affected by their school's building physically closing down and having been displaced. The Scholarship does not apply to those leaving the diocese.

The Scholarship does not apply to children of Holy Ghost. However, the tuition for Holy Ghost families will *not* increase for the 2010/2011 school year.

- ***How does Holy Ghost test scores compare to other schools? What is the trend in test scores?***

The diocese does not allow the publication of test scores. Holy Ghost scores are very good and well above the norm.

Test scores remained the same with slight increases in the lower grades.

- ***What is the policy on homework vs. classroom time?***

Generally at the discretion of the teacher.

- ***Will St. Peter's Pastor be involved?***

Yes, Fr. Slawek will be involved with students in the classroom as well as saying Mass and hearing confessions. Children will be attending Mass weekly.

- ***How can we help the process?***

We will hold a fundraiser to raise money for new desks/chairs. Looking into grants from outside sources.

- ***Is there any interest in a Summer Academy?***

There are three teachers willing to do it: Mrs. Diaz, Mrs. Cortez, and Mrs. Nigliaccio. Need commitment from parents to make it work.

Students from both Holy Ghost and St. Peter's are eligible for enrollment.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM