

(Draft)

St. Dominic Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 23, 2011
7:00 PM Aquinas Room

Present: Jerry Jorgensen, Al Jante, Jeff Pittner, Karen Grupe, Lyle Vander Wyst, Vince Karls, Fr. John Radetski

Absent: Jason Martin, Susan Sellars, Jim Schramm, Pat Lacey

Guests: Mike Short, Jaci Bechard, Eileen Diener, Dolores Ruppel, Tim Thompson, Troy Vreeke, Brian Pittner, Sarah Annelin, Ann Marie Spaeth, Tom Henning

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| New Business |
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Lyle reviewed the three scenarios that had been given to the Parish Council. Jerry Jorgenson asked if there was an explanation of how this came about. Lyle explained that in 9/09, both Fr. Jim and Fr. John asked the Archdiocese to conduct a study of the schools. For a number of reasons, the study was not done until 9/10 when the Archdiocese did a review of both Holy Family and St. Dominic schools.

Karen Grupe and Tom Henning tried to explain the scenarios from their understanding of the information.

Sara Annelin explained what a fantastic principal Peggy Hensler was and that the current Holy Family principal could take some lessons from Peggy.

Tom Henning explained the formula that would be used for determining the subsidy at each Parish.

Karen Grupe suggested that St. Dominic will lose out if the school is at Holy Family. Jeff Pittner thought Karen Grupe had a good point.

Jerry Jorgenson asked if the Parishes have to sign off on this. Lyle felt that they did not and the Archdiocese had the final say.

Karen Grupe stated that she has huge respect issues for the priests..

Sara Annelin explained what she wants to tell Fr. Jim. Sara Annelin, "Fr. Jim has more pull over the other priests. Is it financial or something else?" She got emotional at the point. She said that she doesn't want to lose any families.

Mike Short said there is a lack of communication. Karen Grupe said that Fr. Jim said the reason for the school change was financial.

Jerry Jorgenson said the reason had to be more than financial.

Mike Short said that having a school was key to the mission of the church of getting us closer to God. He mentioned that the Parish will end the year with a \$68,000 deficit. He didn't want to see the Parish going through what went through in August.

Eileen Deiner said that the school was like a family.

Mike Short talked about what the school was like for his students.

Sara Annelin blamed Fr. Jim for bringing this about.

Karen Grupe brought up how the Parish has been in the black for the past two years and is in the red this year. Later, when Fr. John came in, and Karen Grupe again said that this year was the first year that the school was in the red, Fr. explained there were three previous years of deficits although last year we were in the black.

Ann Marie Spaeth mentioned that a better financial analysis needs to be done. The final decision should benefit everyone financially.

Karen Grupe said she questions why given that Fr. Jim spent 20 years as an accountant would say that a financial analysis would not need to be done.

Karen Grupe said that Fr. Jim would be hiring the new principal.

Fr. John came in at 7:50. Fr. John explained the meeting to discuss the Arch School Report. Fr. John explained how last year's Finance Committee had to reduce the school subsidy by \$35-40,000.

The Finance Committee did not agree with Father John's assertion that the Parish is in dire financial circumstances. The committee indicated they fully expect the possible deficit indicated in the very preliminary 2011-12 budget (which is still under development) can readily be eliminated in short order if we ask the Parish to give to keep our school viable. The committee expressed disappointment that it had not been consulted during the development of the school plan, considering it is the Parish body with the background and responsibility to evaluate financial matters in the Parish.

A significant majority of the committee and those guests present expressed firm opposition to the implementation of any school change in fall 2011. Further there was a nearly unanimous request to have Parish wide input sessions to allow information sharing and the development and evaluation of any school plan, including developing financial projections. At this point opposition to any change in the fall of 2011 has also been expressed by both elected Parish Trustees,

Jerry Jorgenson raised a question about making sure that the consolidation results in a financial savings.

Lyle VanderWyst asked Fr. John to look out for the best interests of the parish. "Please give us a year."

Fr. John said that if the school was given a year, it would be a dead year.

Anne Marie Spaeth spoke about making sure that the decision that is made needs to be the right thing.

Following a question from Al Jante, Fr. John explained the Archdiocesan school study and the timeline for its being completed.

Sara Annelin relayed her experiences with Holy Name and Holy Family School.

Karen Grupe reiterated how happy everyone was with the school.

Jerry Jorgenson shared his experience with the school collaboration that occurred previously with Holy Name. He went on to discuss the Parish budget and the projected deficit.

At 8:23, Jeff Pittner said that it was time to end the discussion.

Jerry Jorgensen asked for more discussion about the finances within the plans. He pointed out the situation in Racine/Kenosha with 10 parishes.

Fr. John mentioned some repair issues that we are facing. He reviewed tuck pointing, the roof, doors and windows. It was also discussed that this merging of the schools wouldn't change that need because the building would still be used.

Al Jante asked Jeff for a complete list of building and grounds needs for the next Finance Committee meeting.

Vince Karls emphasized the need for an effort to increase Parish membership and Parish giving.

Mike Short mentioned previous collaboration on the high school program that didn't work out.

Jeff Pittner brought the meeting to a close with some parting thoughts.

Closing Prayer

Fr. John led those present in the Our Father.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Jante

| <i>St. Dominic Finance Committee Meeting schedule</i> | | |
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| Date | Time | Room |
| 20-Oct | 7PM | Aquinas |
| 17-Nov | 7PM | Francis |
| 15-Dec | 7PM | Aquinas |

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| 19-Jan | 7PM | Aquinas |
| 16-Feb | 7PM | Aquinas |
| 16-Mar | 7PM | Aquinas |
| 20-Apr | 7PM | Aquinas |
| 18-May | 7PM | Aquinas |
| Jun. 15 | 7PM | Aquinas |