

Divine Mercy School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1st, 2009
6:30 p.m. @ Marquette Avenue Site

Attendees: Judy Kalinowski (principal), Father Bob Betz, Father Steve Varghese, Denice Myszewski (Chairperson), Julie Wielichowski (Co-Secretary), Laura Endres (Co-Secretary), Denise Bachinski, Matt Kotz, Stacy Luell, Trudy Snyder, June Cantu, Jaci Browne, and Larry Haskin

Motion to approve September 2009 meeting minutes made by M. Kotz. Second by J. Wielichowski. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: 1. J. Kalinowski is receiving positive feedback regarding new staff members at the school. 2. A parent expressed concerns via e-mail that it was thought that Back to School Night should be limited to the topics pertinent to Divine Mercy happenings and events. It was agreed that next there will no longer be promotion of High Schools at this event. Area Catholic High Schools schedule visits to our school throughout the school year. Parents are welcome to attend with their students. The schedules will be posted in the weekly green newsletter. There was also a concern that St. Thomas More is sometimes advertised more than other schools in the weekly newsletter but J. Kalinowski indicated she publishes what's provided to her. Not all schools provide her updates on a weekly basis.

Principal's Report: The Annual State of the School Report will be released to parents.

Sub Committee Reports:

***Policy** - None.

***Planning and Special Projects** - Hard copies of Teacher Wish Lists were distributed. They will be placed on D.M.'s school website. Discussion ensued about grant writing and tapping into local businesses for financial support and resources.

***Marketing and Communications** - Discussed in further detail advertising and ideas for a tri-fold brochure to be distributed at area businesses and at festivals next summer. Always looking to increase enrollment and "grow" our school. School Newspaper has not taken off yet due to busy fall. L. Endres and D. Bachinski will begin as soon as possible.

***Finance** - None.

***Spiritual Formation and Caring Community** - It was agreed that the school-sponsored Sunday Mass will continue to be at the 9:00 a.m. time slot so that our children's choir can continue to sing. If we moved to 10:45, the choir would not be able to participate. Grade 8 will organize and lead Mass at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 18th. A list of service opportunities for the middle school students was compiled and given to the religion teacher.

***Parish Council Liaison** - None.

***Home and School Liaison** - Home and School is thinking of offering a small incentive to encourage more parents to attend and participate in the meetings. It was thought that offering the Scrip fundraiser order form along with Mr. Z's. and Q.S.P. was a good idea this fall.

Old Business: 1. Larry Haskin from the Long Range Planning Committee spoke about their process in narrowing Divine Mercy down to one worship site and one school site. Marquette Avenue will be the worship and Christian formation site. No decision has been made about the school

and social site. School Committee provided the school's "needs analysis" along with our site recommendation to the Long Range Planning Committee. Parishioner listening sessions will be held on October 29 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in order to give everyone a chance to be heard and provide input regarding the ultimate school site. The Long Range Planning Committee will make their final school site recommendation to the Divine Mercy Parish Council by the end of 2009. **School families are encouraged to attend these listening sessions!** 2. Halloween Dance help needed! A letter will go home to parents about cost and snack donations. Dance is set for Friday, October 16th, 2009 from 7:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m.

New Business: 1. A parent expressed concerns about the amount of time given to students to eat their lunches. Sometimes teachers aren't getting the kids down to the lunch room in a timely manner so kids don't have enough time to eat. J. Kalinowski will inform teachers of the importance of dismissing their classes to lunch on time and students will be encouraged to talk less and eat more. Parents can also help by reminding their children of the importance of eating a good lunch. 2. A parent heard that the cleaning service was cut from five days to three. That wasn't working out so the cleaning service has been reinstated to clean five days a week. 3. The D.M. School Committee discussed priest involvement in the schools. The priests hold weekly Mass at school and visit when invited for special events and projects. The D.M. School Committee appreciates their presence and involvement in the school. They are well received by the students, when they visit. They are encouraged to visit as often as their other parish duties and responsibilities will allow them to, because we value their teaching and influence on our children.

Next Divine Mercy School Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 5th, 2009 @ Marquette Avenue Site, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By L. Endres and J. Wielichowski (Co-secretaries)