

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

CHURCH of the HOLY SPIRIT, EAST GREENBUSH, NY

March 25, 2015

Presiding: Father Joe O'Brien

Attending: Rocco Acquilano, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Karen La Frank, Brian Murphy, Mike Piatek and Fr. Joe O'Brien.

Absent: Cathy Bellisario, Kevin Haggerty, Paul Wos and trustees Cathy Bruno and Rick Hannmann.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm. Fr. Joe began with an opening prayer. Minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Nick Bruno noted that there was a mistake in minutes regarding the reporting of his attendance at the February meeting. The February minutes were amended. A motion was made by Bill Dringus and seconded by Rocco Acquilano to accept the amended minutes. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **School Report**
 - Mike Piatek, our school principal, asked to address the Council early in our proceedings. Fr. O'Brien advanced the School Report in our agenda.
 - He reported that the school's current total enrollment was 221 students. An Open House was held on Saturday, February 7th. 17 families with interest in levels from pre-K to middle school attended. Eight new students were enrolled for September. The school is receiving a number of requests for information; a second Open House is scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, March 26th. Already more children are enrolled for Kindergarten for September 2015 than are currently attending. There is the potential for a second section of Kindergarten.
 - A heating/air conditioning unit which services the library/technology room failed in March and required immediate replacement. Crisfulli Bros. replaced the unit in two days. The total cost was \$9,200, including a \$2,000 expense for a crane.
 - The school recently experienced a burst pipe in the boiler room which necessitated closure of the school for a day and closure of pre-K for three days. The water damage was largely confined to some equipment in the boiler room, two school offices, and three pre-K rooms. The gym floor was not damaged. The pipe which failed had been serviced three times in the preceding month by

Crisfulli Bros.; this was not related to the library/technology room repair. The matter is being addressed by our diocesan insurance office. At this time the school's loss is estimated at \$7-8,000 which included the cost of cleaning and environmental air testing.

- Mike Piatek announced that he would retire at the end of this academic year. Mike, who recently turned 68, indicated that he has been attending school for the last 62 years and that it was time to make a change. He made his intentions known to the pastor and to the superintendent. He wishes to be a resource to the School Board to help them select a successor.
- School finances: December 31st - \$38K deficit; February 28th - \$28K deficit. About \$45K in total in state payments, diocesan aid and PSA support came in since January 1st which fits the pattern of school finances (state aid, diocesan aid and PSA support are received in the second half of the fiscal year), as described at our last meeting.

Open Positions

- Marie Frost had accepted our Coordinator-Sacramental Preparation position and began work on February 2nd. She is doing very well. We advertised for our open Coordinator-Parish Life position. To date, we have one identified candidate for an interview; we are seeking to find additional qualified candidates to interview. FR. O'Brien had spoken with some diocesan officials and received advice on reaching additional qualified applicants.
- Our Search Committee (Maria Collins, Kevin Haggerty, Tracey Penk-Masucci, Kathy Rosenbaum, Darlene Walzer and our two Parish Trustees, Cathy Bruno and Rick Hannmann) seeks to interview candidates soon.
- Facilities Planning/Master Plan update
 - The fund raising committee reports that, to date, we have received 181 pledges and gifts, raising \$319,000. The full FPC will be meeting on Tuesday March 31st to discuss the result of the fund raising campaign and start discussion on how to proceed. This number is much less than anticipated when we started the campaign. We had a smaller number of pledges than we first expected. It is expected that as everything comes in, we may raise \$340-50,000. This, along with parish and school savings, we may have around \$650,000 to use in a project. Council members expressed interest in retaining the additional meeting room space and some, if not all, of the accessibility project in the final configuration.
- Local Catholic Community
 - We had a brief conversation about hosting a visit from Bishop Scharfenberger. It was thought that we should wait until better weather to host a parish visit. A visit on a Sunday would be best, making it possible for the Bishop to meet

/interact with our parishioners. A weekday school visit could be held at a different time/a weekday.

- It looks as if St Mary's and St John the Evangelist/St Joseph's will spend some time in the coming months considering needs of mutual interest and developing a new weekend worship schedule in the coming months. Implementation may be in mid-2016.

Financial Report

- Father passed out the parish financial statement for period ending 2/2015. It was noted that income and expenses were both down. The decrease in income may be attributed to the fund raising for Spirit Hall and the decrease in expenses are attributed to the reduce staff. The decrease in income was attributable to the poor winter weather in January and February when attendance and collections were depressed. The church surplus remained approximately the same as through the same period last year (\$15K - \$14 K).
- The following items are a carryover from previous months and remain so the PC can continue to monitor the progress of these items:
 - The Finance Committee and Bernie agreed that capital campaign funds should be reported as a revenue line on the balance sheet, much in the same manner as the Bishop's Appeal funds are recorded. That is, these funds should not be recorded as current income.
 - The Bishop's Appeal has raised about \$58,000 to date. This year's assessment is \$62,700. Father will continue to use a low key approach to this program for remainder of year.
 - Father to meet with the Finance Committee with the council's recommendation that we follow the advice Dave Wojeski offers and see how they would like to proceed.
- LIFT
 - The weather cooperated and all three sessions were held in March. The next LIFT gatherings will begin on Monday, April 20th, 22nd and 26th. Planning is underway for our daylong Stewardship Day on Saturday, May 30, 2015.
- Closing
 - Father Joe closed with a prayer at 8:00PM.
 - Our next meeting is Thursday, April 16th at 6:45pm.