

St. Gregory the Great Advisory Board Meeting
April 22, 2009

Attendance: Peter Wilson, Mark Geyman, Martin McGuan, Sherry O'Brien, Jim Augusta, Ruthie Foust, Gary Novinc, Carmen Matz

Absences: None

Guests: Tony Flowers, Molly Clifford, J. Scott Mullins

Call to Order: 7:01 P.M. by Gary Novinc

Opening Prayer: Gary Novinc

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from March 18, 2009 approved

Pastor's Report: None

Financial Report: Presented by Tony Flowers, Director of Parish Finances

Mr. Tony Flowers was invited by the School Advisory Board (SAB) to attend this meeting to present an overview of parish and school finances. Mr. Flowers told the SAB he received his current position as Director of Parish Finances in October 2008 after the departure of Kevin Doles. Mr. Flowers explained this position is part-time and he usually works at the Saint Gregory Rectory on Fridays and Saturdays.

Mr. Flowers described school and parish finances as "intertwined" and "related." He also stated Saint Gregory the Great Parish owes the Cleveland Catholic Diocese a "substantial amount of money." When asked to give a figure, Mr. Flowers said the church owes approximately 1.6 million dollars. This amount reflects debt accumulated during the time of Monsignor William Novicky's tenure as pastor. The parish owes the diocese back payments to the employee hospitalization and pension plans totaling 1.6 million dollars.

Mr. Flowers continued his presentation of parish finances. He explained the school and parish do not currently have written yearly budgets. When Mr. Flowers was asked to clarify this point, he again explained Saint Gregory the Great Church and School do not have written yearly budgets, however, Bishop Lennon will require the merged Saint Gregory the Great and Saint Margaret Mary parishes to create operating budgets for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Members of the SAB expressed shock and disbelief that given our parish's past financial irregularities that it continued to operate without a yearly budget. Mr. Flowers stated while the parish has no budget, he does know the parish's approximate monthly and yearly expenses. The Cleveland Catholic Diocese has not requested a specific monthly repayment of the debt, but it wishes to know our plan for paying back the debt. Mr. Flowers promised, "We will have a budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year."

Principal's Report: Presented by Principal Peter Wilson

School Report:

Total paid registration as of April 22nd was 343 students for grades K-8. If students whose parents have not yet paid the 2009 registration fee, yet have expressed intent to return to school next year are included, the projected enrollment climbs to 368 students. Saint Gregory the Great School currently has 43 registered kindergartners, 49 preschoolers, including 29 children enrolled in 4 year old classes.

Sister Ann Patrick celebrated her 80th birthday and 60 years as an Ursuline sister.

The School Advisory Board, School Endowment Board, and the Parent Teacher Council all have open positions to fill in the next few months.

Mr. Wilson is interested seeking grant money to help the school offer professional development opportunities for staff members.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Wilson reported the school buildings will receive special signs to identify buildings and provide directions to various locations on parish grounds.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2009

Closing Prayer: Mark Geyman

Adjournment: 8:15 P.M.