

St. Michael the Archangel
Parish Council Minutes
February 10, 2010

Council members present: Jack Boumeester, Ed Carey, Phil Duran, Randy Fortuin, Mary Ann Kendrick, Perry Monkelein, Randy Perlis, Tim Shively, Peter Smith, Tom Werzyn

Absent: Kathy Mallach, Jamie Roles II

Admin. members present: Evelina Fortajada, Catherine Miller, Ginnie Taylor

Admin. Absent: Judy Guyre

Opening Prayer: Catherine Miller

Two staff members and two parents of the St. Michael the Archangel Pre-School attended the meeting to give council members insight into the Pre-School Program.

Randy Perlis invited all council members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the Pre-school staff and parents.

Dee Ann Toby, Director of the Pre-School, gave a short but informative history of the Pre-School which began in 1982. There have only been two directors since the school's inception. Turnovers among the rest of the staff have also been very low. There are currently eight teachers and one secretary. The pre-school is the only one in the Arch-Diocese of Denver to be accredited by the NAEYC; it is fully licensed with the State of Colorado and follows all state guidelines (with regard to safety, health, etc.); it is additionally affiliated with the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools and follows the norms of that office's guidelines and manual of procedures. Each of the four classrooms has two teachers with about 16 students (an 8-1 ratio). There are just morning, just afternoon and all day class sessions for students. At any given time there are 50-100 students present in the building. Capacity for the program is 180 with 169 currently enrolled. There is no before/after childcare available. The program is not self-supporting but receives funds from both tuition and parish subsidy as well as the POPS (Parents of Pre-schoolers) fund raisers.

The annual budget is \$360,000 with \$330,000 currently received through tuition and \$30,000 from parish subsidy. An effort is made to try to keep the parish subsidy at \$30-40 thousand. About 2/3 of the students are from Catholic families and 60-75% are parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel parish.

When asked what challenges the program faces, Dee Ann responded that advertising/marketing (getting the word out) is always a challenge. It was suggested that perhaps she call the Register and the Sentinel to get a picture and article published about the spring's Dad's Day.

Kara, a parent of a child in the pre-school, said that she has a unique perspective

because she is both a parent and a teacher. She chose St. Michael's because of the solid educational base. She values the fact that the daily curriculum is posted outside the room making it easier to see what her sons day was like. She is confident that because of attending St. Michael Pre-School her son is very well prepared for Kindergarten. She added that the teachers are sweet but disciplined and nurturing. Her son wants to be there and loves it. There is also great communication with the parents.

Jenny has been a teacher at St. Michael's since 2006 and loves it. She has a degree in early childhood education. She began as a substitute and is honored now to be a full time teacher. She believes the program is structured so that there is time to developmentally help each child reach his/her potential.

Amy is a parent of a student and the current vice-president of POPS. Amy said she feels so very blessed because after looking around at pre-schools she just sort of fell into it and felt it was the best. POPS does fundraising activities and gets parents involved in the program. She is constantly telling folks about the school. She feels that her child is well cared for.

The two parents present as well as several council members expressed disappointment over the fact that the school does not continue from K-8. Fr. Jim responded that it is not a fiscal feasibility and there simply is not enough room without construction of another building. He said that even if it were a consideration it would take at least 10 years or more for it to become a reality.

Dee Ann was asked if there were any concerns/issues the council might need to address on behalf of the pre-school. Other than the K-8 issue she responded no.

Fr. Jim thanked the representatives of the pre-school program for attending and told them that this year's summer project will include replacing the carpets in the classrooms. They were delighted with the news.

Shortly before the close of the meeting Fr. Jim asked the council members to go home and jot down a few thoughts about why this program is important to you. Also ask yourself what is valuable to you in what we are doing here at St. Michaels. We need a clear vision of what we impart to the parish as a whole. **The thoughts and/concerns should be e-mailed to Ginnie (ginnie_glenn@comcast.net) as soon as possible.**

Next meeting: March 10, 2010 - 7:30 pm
Bill Kramer of the Finance Council will be present.