

**St. Augustin Parish**  
**Joint Parish Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 12, 2010

**Present:** Joe Kobes, Father Jim Polich, Todd Erzen, Emily Duong, Milton Anania, Rob Den Hartog, Joe Dullard, and Sherill Whisenand.

**Not Present:** Sandra Mosley(excused).

**Guests:** Mindi Dickinson (Board of Education), Jim Willer (Finance Council), Mike Balch (Finance Council), and Joe Bisignano (Foundation Board)

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Emily Duong. Opening Prayer was read in unison by all: *Dear Lord, we ask for your guidance; inspire us to act with commitment and compassion as we seek to fulfill our role as council members. We pray that our actions will have a positive effect and that the parishioners of St. Augustin's will benefit. Please give us your strength to persevere in our goals to serve you. Amen.*

**November Meeting Minutes**

November minutes were reviewed and a motion made by Joe Kobes, seconded by Joe Dullard that the minutes be approved. Motion carried with unanimous approval.

**Board of Education**

*Mindi Dickinson, (School board president)* reported that unexpected issues regarding free preschool funding (10% cutback from State of Iowa) as well as fire protection upgrades are challenging this year's budget: as of December they are \$6,000 over budget. Mindi stated that this is the first time in 20 years that the budget was not met. How do we avoid this happening again. The November auction was successful and repairs on the school roof are in the works.

**Finance Council**

*Jim Willer and Mike Balch (finance council), Rob Den Hartog and Joe Dullard, P.C. representatives*

Jim Willer stated that finance reports from Andy Ball have been encouraging; \$13,000 ahead on budget projections by the end of November, but behind about \$5,500 for December 2009 (compared to prior Decembers). Jim believes there is an appetite for a fundraiser to assist parish bottom line if it is the right event.

Joe Dullard asked about the possibilities of using direct deposit for tithing (*this is already available for anyone who signs up*). Rob Den Hartog said top priority in sticking with the pastoral plan is to form a tithing committee. Some names were discussed as to who would be on this committee (Joe Dullard, Rob Den Hartog, Jim Willer all expressed interest to be on the committee but not to lead) Fr. Jim is speaking of hiring a professional fundraising consultant to help us carry a successful campaign. Todd Erzen questioned the tendency to talk about money matters to the exclusion of spiritual health.

**St. Augustin Foundation**

*Joe Bisignano, Foundation Chair, Fr. Jim and Emily Duong, members*

Joe Bisignano stated the Foundation came through better last quarter than expected; and added that an endowment fund should be established specifically for school use. Fr. Jim asked whether establishing such an endowment might require professional help. Todd Erzen questioned why a specific endowment should be set aside for school needs when the school can already seek help from the foundation.

**Other Business**

Brief discussion about budget timelines going forward.

Fr. Jim applauded the social justice committee activities, such as free trade and homeless efforts.

Discussion about continued efforts to follow up on parish plan success: Rob Den Hartog would still like to see the suggestion box put in place for council-parishioner communication. Joe Kobes suggests a quarterly council forum that parishioners could attend following a particular mass.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Kobes, seconded by Joe Dullard, motion carried

**Closing Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, You have blessed us beyond our imaginations and we are called to use these blessings to do your will. Please send your Holy Spirit to guide us to make good decisions that will properly lead your flock; for if we are not bringing them to you, we are surely pushing them away. The work you have given us is important and obtainable for we remember that you have not only called us but you have also enabled us. May we leave this meeting with a fire that moves us to action and the words that your son, our savior has given us: Amen*