

**ST. THERESA of the CHILD JESUS
FINANCE COUNCIL
March 27, 2019**

Fr. Ray Higgins
Tom Hueholt
Kevin Olsen
Margie Pope
Steve Michaud
Jim Langeness
Paul Johnson - Absent
Paul Galloway

Mary Gisler
John McMichael
Ellen Stemler

Tom Hueholt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm on March 27, 2019.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Ray Higgins

Roll Call

All members of the Finance Council were present except Paul Johnson. Also present were Mary Gisler, John McMichael, and Ellen Stemler.

Reading and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 2019 meeting. Motion was seconded and approved.

Reports

A. Childcare Program

There was no report regarding the childcare program.

B. School Progress Reports

1. **Enrollment:** The current enrollment for the 2018/2019 school year stands at 287 for pre-K to 8th grade and 247 for kindergarten to 8th grade. Ellen reported that enrollment for the 2019/2020 school year is 35 for pre-K and 238 for kindergarten to 8th grade. There are some current families that are waiting on the tuition for the coming year before enrolling.
2. **FACTS Tuition:** Ellen reported that has not been much progress on the reporting issues with FACTS. Most likely we will not have the same detailed reports as we have had in the past.
3. **Strategic Plan:** Ellen stated that the meetings to discuss the strategic plan for the St. Theresa School were postponed until the parish town hall events were completed. Now that those town halls have taken place meetings will be scheduled to discuss the school's strategic plan. Representatives from various organizations will be invited as well as parishioners.
4. **Diocesan Strategic Plan:** The consultants from the Meitler Group have submitted their report and the findings are starting to be released. The Diocesan schools will be divided into 3 groups: Council Bluffs, rural, and Des Moines. The Diocese will take control of many of the administrative functions as well as responsibility of hiring and firing school personnel. One of the goals is to standardize tuition and teacher compensation. A Diocesan wide fund raising campaign is expected to help finance these initiatives. There are not many details known at this time; however,

there is an expectation that many changes will be implemented for the 2020/2021 school year.

5. **School Budget:** A school budget that included a \$300 tuition increase, funds for a Spanish program, elimination of 2 teaching positions, and enrollment of 243 (K through 8th grade) was distributed for consideration. With the \$300 tuition increase, tuition would be \$3,525. The budget showed a shortfall of \$21,824. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the impact to enrollment with the material increase in tuition. There was a consensus from the discussion that additional staff reductions, further increases in tuition, or other material changes to the school are not desirable for the 2019/2020 school year particularly given the significant changes that are expected as the recommendations from the Meitler study are implemented. The Finance Council agreed to carry a short fall in the school budget for this transition year. See New Business for a corresponding motion.

C. Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

The Annual Diocesan Appeal launched the weekend of March 2 and 3. The goal this year is \$155,331. Current pledges stand at \$75,968 (48.9% of goal) with 202 contributors. The total shortage from the 2018 ADA came to \$18,600. This was higher than expected because there were \$4,000 in pledges that did not get paid.

D. Diocesan Capital Campaign Funds Received and Plan Disbursements
Capital Campaign Receipts: Nothing to report.

E. Report on Funds Transfers To and From Laddered CD Accounts

There was no material discussion regarding the CD accounts.

F. Monthly Financial Reports

Given the lengthy discussion on other agenda items, there was no specific discussion of the monthly financials.

New Business

A. School Budget

A motion was made for the St. Theresa Finance Council to accept a school budget, approved and submitted by the St. Theresa School Board, with a deficit not to exceed \$35,000. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. Tuck Pointing Pre-K Wall

Mary Gisler informed the Finance Council that the west wall of the pre-K room will require tuck pointing and repair. No action is required from the council at this time. Email approval will be obtained if action is required before the next meeting.

C. Air Conditioner at School

Mary also informed the council that the air conditioner units for the school are requiring refills of refrigerant and are most likely reaching their end of life. She has contracted with an engineering firm to evaluate the scope and cost of work to replace these units. The findings from the engineering evaluation will be shared with the Council when it is available. No immediate action is required by the Council.

Old Business

A. Snow Removal Tractor

There was discussion at the last meeting regarding the purchase of a John Deere tractor from Duax for roughly \$17,000. This was followed up with an email that included additional information regarding the purchase. After some email exchanges and further consideration, Mary decided not to pursue this purchase. It would have been a great asset to have for snow removal but given the state of the parish budget there simply was no way to justify the purchase.

B. Business Conducted by Email

None

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, April 11 at 5 PM.

Closing Prayer: Meeting ended with prayer led by Tom Hueholt.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM