

MINUTES

Present: Olive Guillard, Francis Mansfield, Patrick James, Father Birney, Father Parrotta, Father Monroe, Father Nyman, Sister Mary Louise. Guest: Sister Mary Ellen

After Mr. Mansfield called upon Sister Mary Ellen to open the meeting with a prayer, he called upon William Ayres who had requested to present a plan for making money. Mr. Ayres manages Data Control, and has an idea that might temporarily help the schools in their crisis. His company has developed a new plan to replace stamps to help participating stores drum up business. Customers will be given ID cards and when they purchase, over the course of a year, a certain amount of goods, they will be given interest on the amount they spent. It would amount to about 3 per cent although it is 6% annually because it would take an entire year to earn the 6 per cent. At any rate, it is sort of like a Christmas Club.

Mr Ayres figures there are about 1500 Catholic families in the area, and he would write them letters, suggesting that they band together with their neighbors and buy at these specific stores...one supermarket, one department store, and one brand of gas, etc., and sign over their earnings to the two grade schools until June. The board liked the idea of getting money for nothing, but worried about the hard feelings that might arise if the board endorsed certain specific stores. Because of their worries, they withheld judgement and wish to consult the absent members.

The Sault Ste. Marie Catholic Board of Education is, without a doubt, the proper board to take the initiative in our present situation to explore the possibility of beginning a consolidated grade school and to take measures to set up a total religious education effort for the coming year. But the elected members of the two grade school boards are bright and willing and interested people and somehow they should have a role in the present planning. Eventually, we should combine all three boards and make one board for the city, with perhaps different committees of interested people concerned about the very different aspects of service to the people of the parishes.

The most urgent problem is the consolidated grade school. Can the Sault afford the kind of school called for at this time and will the people interested be enough in number to fill it with kids and pay a reasonable part of the tab? The people to dig up this information should be people really interested in this school.

MOTION: Made by Father Monroe and seconded by Pat James to appoint a committee of interested people to look into the possibility of our being able to meet the criteria for a consolidated school. Carried unanimously.

Paul Ripley
Lillian Holt
Lois Fabry

Hugh Ferns
Tom Krell

Bill Piche
Paul Frost

Another problem, almost as urgent because of the semester closing of Loretto, will be to find and release the right people to plan and even begin in some areas the total religious education program. We have staff at hand to begin a high school program and we have sisters willing to teach in the grade schools in order to release sisters there for remote or immediate preparation.

MOTION: Made by Patrick James and seconded by Father Birney to appoint a committee of interested people to begin to plan for next year's program. Carried unanimously.

Chairman: Sister Mary Gabriel. She is empowered to select as many people as she needs from each parish and may subdivide the committee into the various sections of the program.

A related problem, which will have an effect on the other two problems, is disposing of the Loretto property. Like it or not, it will cost at least \$50,000 annually to keep Loretto, and even though it is in an ideal place for release time and will surely be of benefit to our children, we must find a less expensive setting for our religious education program.

By common agreement, Bud Mansfield, Hugh Madigan, Bill James, and Father Nyman were selected as the members of the committee to explore potential buyers and begin negotiations as soon as possible.

We have several parcels of land given to the school as partial payments of pledges made during our building fund drive. The Loretto Mothers were authorized to raffie off one of these parcels. Some of them are getting expensive to hold because of sewer developments and other improvements, and none of them are very desirable on the open market.

Father Nyman expressed a willingness to help the grade school committee in any way he could, but his role as the devil's advocate might be misunderstood. He suggested that the pastors go to their baptismal registers and list the names of the parents of kids born between 1964 and 1970 to discover their feelings about a Catholic grade school that would cost them a reasonable tuition. He also mentioned that some of the sisters had expressed an unwillingness to teach in a school unless it was innovative and special. The names of the parents could then be available to the committee for contact, and the committee would be realistic in making out their budget.

It will be the policy for the present to not sell anything from Loretto. If there should be a consolidated grade school, some of our furniture and equipment might be useful there. Even if there isn't, we will need some for our total religious education program. After closure, the entire contents of the building will be carefully inventoried. It is possible that the public schools, if they buy the building, would like to purchase it furnished.

Father Nyman and Sister Mary Louise will handle all transcripts for our seniors, who will graduate from Loretto with Loretto diplomas in June. We will help them get their scholarships and jobs and will be on hand to help them in any way we can.

After June, our entire file of records will be transferred to the public schools so that all of our graduates and students for the past seventy two years can be serviced from Sault High.

There has always been some tension between schools and CCD, and at times CCD advocates felt that they were getting the short end of the stick. However, the personnel and equipment and buildings and heat and everything else was always charged to the school. We have far too many freeloaders in town, in both programs. There will have to be tuition and other means of helping from the religious education people in order to be fair.

The administration of all programs will depend somewhat on what we do. If there is a school, that would be the logical place to have a secretary-bookkeeper to work out budgets and pay bills. Otherwise, a parish will have to take on the responsibility, but in a central account. And the leader, whoever she is, would have to have some part in budget-making and control over buildings. But that when we find out what is going to happen.

Respectfully
Fr. N--from SML's notes