

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes – Special Meeting
February 16, 2004**

Members Present: Dick Backer Matt Johnson Sr. Madelyn Gould
Harry Dubnick Joe Kash Mike Prus
Dick Henke Fr. Bill O’Shea Gary Skarr
Chuck Marquis Mark Oliphant Bob Howe

Also Attending: Molly Fara Bob Woods Jim McSherry Margie Gallehugh

Not Present: Jim Kacena Jeanne Mulroy Sarah Eckstein Fr. Danny Soriano

Opening Prayer: Dick Henke

Discussion Items

A. Discernment Discussion – Creating a Consensus for Decisions

Clarity of what constituted consensus within this group was questioned. It was decided to discuss this at a later time if it became necessary.

B. Opening Remarks from Subsidy Committee

Matt gave a general overview of the methods used by the Subsidy Committee to create their proposal. The points were then discussed one at a time and decisions were made using the consensus process. (Note: the following does not represent the entire proposal, but is rather a summation of each point.)

1. **The financial assistance program shall be set as a percentage of SMMP’s budgeted total collections, with 10% eventually being established as the financial assistance program “cap”.**
Consensus: agreement with the change of ‘budgeted total collections’ to ‘total collections based on the previous calendar year’.

2. **The target for the above stated percentage of total collections based on the previous calendar year shall be phased in over a period of 5 years to the final financial assistance program budgeted amount of 10% of total collections based on the previous calendar year. The five-year phased-in period would begin the year the NRCS opens. The percentage of budget reduction would occur evenly over the phased-in period by 0.5% per academic year from its present 12.5% percentage of total collections until it reaches the 10% cap in the 5th year.**
Consensus: agreement as written.

3. **The Subsidy Committee considered the question of whether the above percentage should be linked to other SMMP programs within the budget. It would send a message to the parish that all linked programs have significant value and are worthy of SMMP support, and hopefully will lead to a more united and cohesive parish.**
Consensus: Decision made to table this item at this time. The committee and Council will discuss linkage in the future.

4. The budgeted amount of money committed to Catholic school financial assistance shall be dedicated to a needs-based system, phased in over a period of time. The end needs-based model will commit 70% of such funds to those families that demonstrate a need for financial assistance and the remaining 30% will be divided equally among all students who attend the Catholic schools (as described below). The Subsidy Committee envisions a confidential third-party administrator assisting the permanent SMMP subsidy committee in determining “financial need” on a year-to-year basis.
Consensus: agreement as written, however there will be a discussion with the other parishes that are involved concerning this issue. After these discussions take place, this point may be revisited.
5. The needs-based model shall be phased in over a 10 year period of time, from the current 100% universal subsidy to the mix of the universal subsidy/needs-based financial assistance program, beginning with the 2005/6 academic year.
Consensus: agreement with the change of ‘10 year period’ to ‘5 year period’.
6. A grandfathering clause shall provide financial assistance, under the new system set forth in Sections 1 through 5 above, for any student who will commence 2nd grade through 8th grade at SSPP or SJA in the academic year of 2005/6. The financial assistance will remain in effect through the completion of that student’s 8th grade graduation. Students who do not fit that description (principally Pre-school, Kindergarten and first grade students in 2005/6) must enroll in the NRCS to be eligible to receive financial assistance from SMMP. After the academic year of 2012/13, ONLY students enrolled at the NRCS will be eligible for SMMP financial assistance, as long as there are seats available at the NRCS. Should a child apply to the NRCS and not be accepted due to limited seats, the student will be eligible for financial assistance if they attend SSPP or SJA. However, this is with the understanding that when a seat becomes available at the NRCS the child must transfer to the NRCS or lose all remaining financial assistance and will not be eligible for financial assistance again, unless the student attends the NRCS.
Consensus: agreement as written.
7. All funds committed to the financial assistance program shall stay devoted to the SMMP students at the NRCS (or grandfathered students for as long as grandfathering occurs as described in Section 6). Once these committed funds are allocated, they will remain allocated for Catholic day School education and any unused funds shall not revert back to the general parish budget or be used to fund any other SMMP general program. They will rather be “rolled over” to the subsequent academic year, being used for school-related issues.
Consensus: agreement as written.

Meeting adjourned 11:30
Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder