

**MINUTES of the
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
of the PASTORAL COUNCIL
and the
FINANCE COUNCIL**

17 April 2018 6:30 – 7:45 pm

Present for

Finance Council: Margaret Erich, Joe Gregorczyk, Norm Hawker (chair), Tim Meeker,
Dick Podiak

Parish Council: Nancy Dudasko, Janet Ingersoll, Paula Hudson, Gracie Kayany, Gretchen
Merkel, John Munnelly, Colleen Semler, Nathan Whitford (chair)

Both Councils: Fr. Ken Schmidt, Jim Hoppe

Guests: John Emilio, Mary Hunt, Connie Juszczyk, Linda Reaume

Connie Juszczyk, Director of the St. Catherine Parish Preschool, presented several scenarios for the programming and budget of the preschool for the coming year. Options included half-day and full-day options, and the possible implementation of the Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program, (either limited to accepting their resource assistance, implementing their curriculum, and/or accepting tuition payments which restricts our Catholic programming).

Fr. Ken also raised questions for the Council members whether operation of the Preschool fits our parish mission and vision. The members affirmed both.

The Council members considered questions such as: is a preschool the best way to use our resources? Would operation of a preschool draw resources from other parish ministries as they currently exist? (The answer is no.) While there may be a profit or loss due to the preschool, that did not seem to be the primary factor in members' decision.

There is a clear desire for a business plan to be created for the preschool. That will be created by Connie Juszczyk and John Emilio.

There is also a clear desire for a just wage to be paid to the Director, and not to build the (financial) success of a preschool on the back of a poorly-paid Director.

Finally, the Councils expressed a desire for an evaluation to be conducted in January 2019. Before that occurs, some clear and measurable criteria should be created as the basis for that evaluation, *such as* maintaining a %age of maximum population; %age of budget income relative to expenses; implementation of the KC Ready4s curriculum.

The Councils recommended that a full-time preschool program be implemented for the next school year, that will allow options for half-day and full-day enrollment. Fr. Ken accepted their recommendation.