

Festina Parish Council and School History

As told by Norbert Hackman

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Norbert Hackman remembers in approximately 1964 or 1965 the Bishop asked Fr. Kunsch to start a Parish Council program. Festina was to be the first parish to have a Parish Council in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. So, Fr. Kunsch handpicked 10 people, all men, to serve.

They were Ray Bushman, Roman Tekippe, Jerome Lensing, Lawrence Buchheit, Augustine Holthaus, Lennie Cremer, Joe Lensing, Edmund Ehler and Norbert Hackman. I can't remember the other one. At that first meeting Fr. Kunsch explained to us why he picked each one of us. We had a meeting once a month at first to setup a constitution. Then, in 1966 we made plans to have a Catholic school board because Fr. Kunsch and the Calmar priest were talking about consolidating to save money and have good teachers. Lawrence Buchheit and Norbert Hackman were chosen to serve if consolidation took place. In 1968 Fr. Graff and Fr. Steiert and the two school boards worked together to form a new school, called CF School.

In 1979 Fr. Geary was our pastor but was in Rome that summer for more education. So the Festina school board worked with the other priests from Calmar and Spillville to bring all three schools together. They got it all setup and it has worked out fine. (CFS Schools)