

Grant for proposed Kettle Moraine health charter school discussed

Still has no charter contract

By Daniel Gaitan
Freeman Staff

WALES – The federal planning grant budget for the Kettle Moraine High School of Health and Sciences, a proposed charter school, was discussed during the Governance Council meeting Tuesday. About \$175,000 in phase one grant money for the 2014 fiscal year could be divided between staff development, legal advice, employee benefits and supplies, among other things.

“I think the biggest thing that parents need to know about the federal grant is that it is federal dollars,” said Health Charter School Director Steve Plum. “It’s not a property tax, it’s federal dollars.”

“The largest amount of our school funding still comes from state and property taxes,” Plum said. “We get the money to put together innovative schools. All charter schools tend to have a focus. They tend to have a population that they’re serving.”

The Health and Sciences school would focus on preparing students for careers in the health care industry, Plum said. “There is an amazing shortfall of health professionals in this state,” he said.

The council also addressed

the urgent need for the school to become a registered 501(c)3 by the Internal Revenue Service, because health care providers tend to prefer partnering with registered nonprofits. Attendees were concerned about the partial government shut-down’s effect on the process of receiving the status.

“If we’re going to get any kind of donation from Aurora, ProHealth or a medical college, the cleanest thing is to be a 501(c)3 and function on that level,” Plum said. “The Department of Public Instruction strongly suggests we all function on that level. It makes the most sense.”

No action was taken during the meeting. A mandatory reporting meeting for all charter school grantees will be held Dec. 5-6 in Madison. There is still no charter contract.

Plum said the school should be up and running by fall 2014, though a location is still to be determined. “We will have parent meetings and a website in late November,” Plum said.

“This is all for opportunities for students,” Plum said. “Many students don’t know what’s out there. How many jobs could have been filled at Aurora Health Care last week?”

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Church to bless Mary statue Sunday

St. Charles parishioner created image from Italian marble

By Brian Huber
Freeman Staff

HARTLAND – Lots of churches may have statues of the Virgin Mary, but how many of them can say theirs were created in-house?

St. Charles Parish in Hartland can.

The church at 313 Circle Drive plans on blessing its new Our Lady of Lourdes statue after the 10:45 a.m. Mass this Sunday.

Created by church member Bryan Berenson of the Town of Lisbon, the 5 1/2-foot-tall, approximately 900-pound statue was hewn of marble coming straight from Carrarra, Italy, source of much of the world’s sculpted marble. Berenson, 49, has been sculpting since 1999, when he began a five-year apprenticeship at Austria’s Schnitzschule Geisler-Moroder, where he continues to study in pursuit of becoming a master sculptor of marble and wood. He also studied in Italy.

Berenson said he’s created or restored hundreds of statues, but this is the largest marble statue he’s done to date. He designed it and the pedestal himself, creating a one-quarter scale model to work from, and spent about 190 hours over a period of many months – amid numerous other projects – before it was completed recently. The statue was delivered to the church last week, with the help of some heavy equipment and labor from Hunzinger Construction.

Being the first large marble statue he’s done, Berenson said he felt a little trepi-

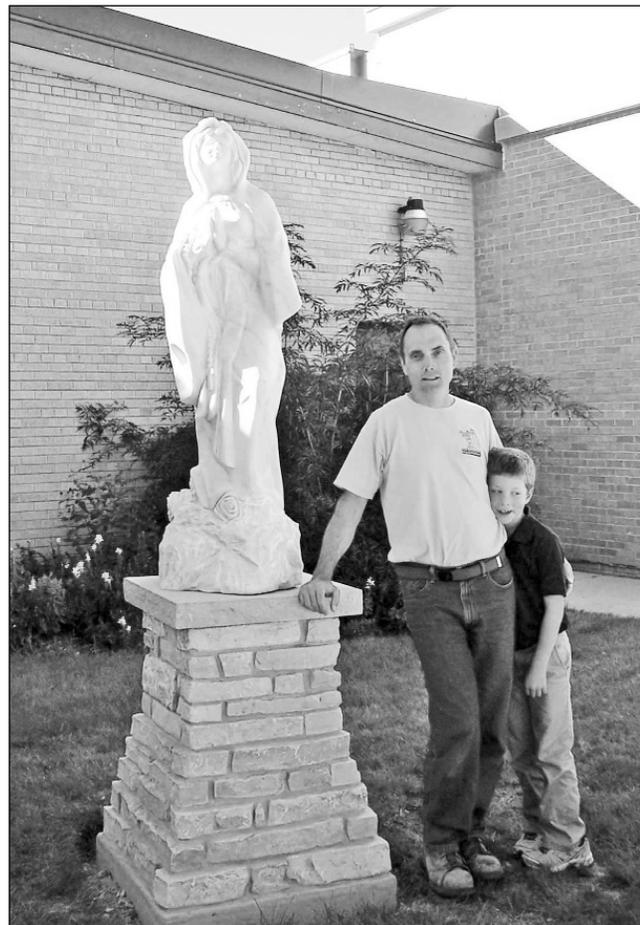


Photo courtesy Shirley Lamerand

Bryan Berenson and his son, Dylan, are seen with the Our Lady of Lourdes statue Berenson sculpted for his church, St. Charles Parish. The statue will be blessed Sunday.

dation at its unveiling.

“I was more concerned with making sure the statue left my place and made it to St. Charles safely. That all happened and it’s a huge relief. It’s very gratifying to see the statue in its resting place and particularly gratifying to hear all of the comments,” Berenson said.

“A lot of people ask me

how I go about carving what starts out as a block of marble and ends up being this figure. I would say I pray. It sounds funny, actually, but I pray and it’s really God working through me. It’s not my own doing. That’s my belief.”

The Rev. Ken Omernick, pastor at St. Charles, said a parishioner, Karen Philleo,

At a glance

What: Our Lady of Lourdes statue blessing

Where: St. Charles Parish, 313 Circle Drive Hartland

When: Following 10:45 a.m. Mass on Sunday

Info: 367-0800

had the idea of a statue of Mary at the church. The church Garden Club got on board and the rest of the congregation quickly followed. Omernick said he knew Berenson from when Berenson did some restoration work at St. Gregory the Great Parish when Omernick was there previous to coming to St. Charles.

“I basically got up one weekend and said to people we want to put a statue up of Mary, would anybody like to contribute? By the end of the 7:15 mass the next morning we had all the money we needed for a statue,” Omernick said. “I thought, I’ve got an artist right here in the parish, ... and he came up with a spectacular statue.”

The statue will be kept outdoors, meaning it needs resealing regularly to protect the marble. Berenson said two stone benches will accompany it, donated by last year’s eighth-grade class and Cub Scout Pack 24, of which his son, Dylan, is a member. In addition, Omernick said the Garden Club’s next project is to create a rose garden around the statue, which has roses carved into it, as well.

To view more of Berenson’s work, visit www.btb-sculptor.com.

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County committee