

**St. Stephen the Martyr  
Board of Education Minutes  
April 20, 2010**

**Attendance:** Greg Youell, Joyce Snowden, Jeanne Meyer, Tom Jorgensen, Sandra Jameson, Sue Knier

**I. Opening Prayer:** The meeting was called to order with a prayer.

**II. Approval of March 16 Minutes:** The minutes were amended and approved.

**III. Religious Education Report:** Mary Maguire

A. R.E. 2009 - 2010

1. Calendar items were shared.
2. The Council of Catholic Women will be honoring Sandra Jameson at a luncheon May 6.
3. RELCO (Religious Education Leaders and Coordinators of Omaha) held a luncheon for Pastors, DREs, and support staff. Mary Maguire is a RELCO officer.
4. First Holy Communion Masses were outstanding. Fr. Jim was thanked for the energy, enthusiasm, and spirituality he shared at all four Masses.
5. Confirmation candidates will have a Night of Reflection with Fr. Jim April 27/28 during R.E. classes.
6. End of the year Prayer Services will be held May 4/5. Catechist, Volunteer, and Youth Ministry Volunteer of the Year will be announced at those services.
7. Sunday School and Kindergarten classes will hold a May Crowning May 2/4/5.
8. Vacation Bible School sessions are full, but adult volunteers are still needed.

B. 2010-2011 Registration and Planning

1. Registration of students and catechists/volunteers is ongoing. The need for additional catechists has grown substantially.
2. Curriculum Search for textbooks is in the beginning stages. Much depends on the timing of approval of Mass changes that are coming. Regardless of when new textbooks are chosen, plans are being made for catechizing on changes in the Mass for students, parents, catechists/teachers.
3. Totus Tuus, a program that has been around a long time, has inquired about using St. Stephen's this summer. A busy summer schedule may prevent them from using the facility.

C. Youth Ministry

1. Parish Graduates will receive a special blessing at Masses May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Senior Picture Banner will be displayed in the church foyer.
2. The Good Friday Youth Passion Play was very moving, and very much appreciated by the many parishioners who attended.
3. Life Teen and Edge programs are coming to an end. Summer events are planned for both groups.

D. G.R.A.C.E.S. Committee for the Archdiocese of Omaha

1. The Archdiocese is looking at ways to make Safe Environment

- re-certification more accessible and efficient.
2. Victim's Assistance director, Mary Beth Hanus, has been a great resource to those in our diocese, and in dioceses across the country.
  3. Anti-pornography education is another area that the archdiocese will be taking action on soon.

**IV. School Report:** (Dr. Peters notes were shared; he was attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip.)

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. The third quarter demerit report was shared.
- C. 27 7<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program this Year. After taking the ACT test, 9 were in the top percentage in Nebraska, and 2 Were in the top 3% in the country.
- D. Kidzone's capacity may increase in the future, depending on space and staffing.

**V. Pastor's Report:** Tom Jorgensen for Fr. Tiegs

- A. Father congratulated Sandra Jameson on becoming the next BOE president, and for being his selection for the annual Woman of the Year from our parish.
- B. Thanks were given to candidates for Pastoral Council and BOE, and also for those who have served this past year.
- C. Budget preparations for 2010/2011 are being finalized.
- D. Thanks were given to all who helped prepare our children for First Holy Communion.
- E. A staff member will be attending Notre Dame University's Youth Sports program to learn how to teach Catholic values through sports. A decision about participating in this program will be made later.
- F. A new parish strategic planning process is being organized under the guidance of Mark Bonkiewicz. This planning group will produce a plan of action by June of 2011. To begin the process, a professional facilities audit will be conducted this Spring.

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Parent/staff surveys have been completed. Help from BOE members in writing a summary of the survey results, and the BOE accomplishments for the year is needed.
- B. BOE members signed up to help count ballots for the April 24/25 elections of new BOE and Pastoral Council members.
- C. BOE Policy Manual revisions: 2<sup>nd</sup> round approval was given for policies 4000, 4005, and 4015. All the 5000 and 6000 policies have been reviewed, with no changes necessary.
- D. BOE members read all the nominations for Catechist, Volunteer, Youth Minister Volunteer, Support Staff, and Teacher of the Year. Winners were chosen.

**V. New Business**

- A. Considerations regarding St. Charles parishioners and SSM school tuition were discussed.

**VIII. Adjournment and Prayer**