

**St. Stephen the Martyr
Board of Education Minutes
August 11, 2009**

Attendance: Fr. Jim Tiegs, Mary Maguire, Dr. Dave Peters, Jeanne Meyer, Sandra Jameson, Nicole Neesen, Al Zach, Greg Youell, Joyce Snowden, Sue Knier

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

II. Approval of June, 2009 minutes: The minutes were amended and approved.

III. Religious Education Report: Mary Maguire

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. Student registration and catechist/volunteer numbers were updated. Fall Catechist In-service went well.
- C. Starting dates for K – 8 classes, Sunday School, Life Teen, The Edge were announced.
- D. Parent meetings will be held during the first week of classes. Fr. Jim and BOE members are invited to attend.
- E. A Confirmation parent meeting will be held Aug. 23.
- F. The Cookie Dough fundraiser begins Aug. 25. The proceeds help greatly with R. E. programs.
- G. Two programs have been delayed: the Archdiocesan Catechist Certification program and the Confirmation sponsors pilot program featuring Mike Carotta.
- H. The Parent Handbook is on the website. The Catechist Handbook is hole-punched so catechists can keep it in their binders for easier access.

I. Youth Ministry

- 1. The Steubenville Youth Conference in Rochester, MN was incredible. Our Youth are gaining a good reputation for being responsible and faith-filled.
- 2. Jessie Clark was awarded the Youth Ministry Scholarship from the College of St. Mary.
- 3. A memorial fund has been set up for Chris Dedinsky to benefit Youth Ministry.
- 4. Life Teen has plans to participate in Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-Thon. More adults have joined the CORE team to assist in planning.

IV. School Report: Dr. Dave Peters

- A. Calendar items were shared. Special note was made of dates and times for Back-to-School nights and the first days of school.
- B. An enrollment report was given. The numbers are good, but the board was asked to help change the perception that all grades have waiting lists. At the time of this meeting, there is room in all grades except 2nd grade.
- C. Family Handbooks are on the website.
- D. Curriculum report: SSM will continue to be a pilot school for the Archdiocesan World Language curriculum. Implementation of the Social Studies

Curriculum will be mandatory this school year. Grades K – 5 will begin using a new Mathematics series by Houghton Mifflin. Grades 3 – 5 will begin using Grammar Workshop by Sadlier.

- E. Home and School, and the Knights of Columbus contributed to the purchase of Smart Boards for the Middle School and the Spanish room.
- F. The Home and School fundraiser (Martyr Marathon) will take place Sept. 4. The School Magazine Sale will take place Oct. 12.
- G. H1N1- Swine Flu precautions were outlined for the board.
- I. The changes in Teacher Associate hours were explained. Every classroom is still being served by a Teacher Associate.

V. Pastor's Report: Fr. Jim Tiegs

- A. New board members were welcomed and thanked.
- B. With a new archbishop, we can anticipate some changes in the future. Archbishop Lucas is committed to visiting every parish, meeting with Boards, saying Masses, and hearing confessions.
- C. Ministry Appreciation Day is Oct. 24. Board members were asked to make it a priority to attend.
- D. This was a very busy summer. Thanks were given to the people who worked to clean the building over the summer.
- E. Fr. Tiegs proposed some goals and priorities to assist the Pastoral Council in planning for the future.
- F. SSM is blessed to have a young man from our parish enter the seminary this fall. The board and all parish members are asked to keep him in their prayers.

VI. Old Business:

There was no old business.

VII. New Business:

- A. One, three, and five year goals for the BOE were shared.
- B. The board will schedule time to work on the first goal, which is to continue reviewing BOE policies.
- C. A discussion was held about providers of school uniforms.
- D. The board was thanked for helping purchase a silent auction item for this year's Parish Festival.

VIII. Adjournment and Prayer