

**St. Stephen the Martyr
Board of Education Minutes
November 17, 2009**

Attendance: Greg Youell, Sandra Jameson, Mary Maguire, Nicole Neesen, Dr. Dave Peters, Joyce Snowden, Jeanne Meyer, Al Zach, Sue Knier
Guest: Ron Meier, Parish Event Coordinator

I. Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order with our Parish Prayer.

II. Approval of Oct. 20, 2009 Minutes: The minutes were amended and approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Ron Meier shared his goals for the three parish events that he will coordinate.

IV. Religious Education Report: Mary Maguire

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. The Circle of Grace curriculum (used in classes as Safe Environment instruction) has been sent and is now being distributed in Kenya.
- C. Personal items are being collected through Thanksgiving for St. Stephen's Pantry.
- D. St. Nicholas will visit all classes.
- E. The Sunday School Christmas Programs will be held on Dec. 13.
- F. Sacrament Preparation
 - 1. First Reconciliation will take place on Dec. 3, followed by a reception in the Dining Room.
 - 2. RCIC and RCIT classes are being held for older children preparing to receive Sacraments. Every month, there are children being baptized, receiving First Communion, and being received into the Church.

G. Youth Ministry

- 1. Angel Tree collections have already begun. Over 1000 angels were taken off the trees in the first week.
- 2. Parents Night Out will be held Dec. 5.
- 3. The Winnebago Delivery of gifts will be different this year. Those delivering gifts will be giving directly to the families for whom the gifts were purchased.
- 4. Registration has begun for the following upcoming Youth activities:
 - Walk for Life, Washington, D.C., Jan. 19 – 24, 2010
 - Steubenville Conference, Rochester, MN, July 16 – 18, 2010
 - Catholic Heart Work Camp, St. Louis, MO, July 25 – 31, 2010

V. School Report: Dr. Dave Peters

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. The School Advisory Committee has been working on a calendar for next year. A draft will be ready for our next meeting.
- C. A report comparing middle school demerits from this year's first quarter to last year's was shared. The students are doing well.

- D. Results of the 2009 Iowa Test of Basic Skills was shared. SSM students tested very well.
- E. SSM's Home and School won the Hy-Vee Smart Board. They will also participate in US Cellular's Project to receive \$100,000 cash.
- F. The school's Advent Service Project will be for EPS. The "Buddy Can You Spare a Dime" project will involve filling individual baby bottles with change that will be given to EPS.

VI. Pastor's Report: Al Zach on behalf of Fr. Tiegs

- A. The priests are grateful for the recognition they received on Priesthood Sunday.
- B. The Parish Mission and Ministry Appreciation Day were great. Large numbers of parishioners participated.
- C. Over 900 people filled the church for Matthew Kelly's presentation.
- D. The Nov. 6 Mass with Archbishop Lucas was wonderful. The Archbishop went out of his way to meet and greet as many people as possible.

VII. Old Business

- A. The Board reviewed and revised Section 3000 of the BOE Policy Manual.
- B. Survey Monkey was chosen as the BOE electronic survey program. BOE members will review old surveys before our next meeting and be ready to make changes.

VIII. New Business

- A. Al Zach was nominated to apply for a position on the Archdiocese School Board.

IX. Adjournment and Prayer.