

**St. Stephen the Martyr
Board of Education Minutes
October 20, 2009**

Attendance: Mary Maguire, David Peters, Jeanne Meyer, Greg Youell, Al Zach, Fr. Chi, Sandra Jameson, Joyce Snowden, Sue Knier
Guest: Marvin Winkler, President of the Pastoral Council

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

II. Approval of Sept. 15, 2009 minutes: The minutes were amended and approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Marvin Winkler shared the goals of the Pastoral Council.

IV. Religious Education Report: Mary Maguire

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. Cookie Dough Fundraiser results were shared. The proceeds were substantially lower this year.
- C. Saints Presentations focused on saints who were priests, in honor of the Year of the Priest. Each of our parish priests gave a talk on saints that influenced them. The students wrote short messages of appreciation to each of the priests. The Sunday School students will have their Festival of Saints on Nov. 1.
- D. Parish Mission dates and times were shared. All were encouraged to participate.
- E. The Catholics Come Home campaign begins in Advent. Other dioceses have had tremendous success with this program.
 1. The parish has a team to help plan for an influx of new parishioners and respond to the needs of returning Catholics.
 2. BOE members were encouraged to check out the website:
www.catholicscomehome.org
- F. All Religious Education students will attend Reconciliation Services during class times on Nov. 10/11.
- G. Sacrament Preparation
 1. First Reconciliation for 245 2nd graders and older children will take place the evenings of Nov. 30 – Dec. 3.
 2. Confirmation retreats went well. An Archdiocesan Junior High Youth Rally On Oct. 18 was held to help students who could not attend their parish retreats. Archbishop Lucas attended, and even ate lunch with the students.
 3. RCIC classes have 10 – 12 children who are preparing for Baptism and reception into the Church. RCIT classes have about 50 students preparing to receive sacraments.
- H. **Youth Ministry**
 1. The youth will sponsor Trunk or Treat on Oct. 23.
 2. Youth Ministry will host the Sunday, Oct. 25 concert for the Parish Mission.
 3. The S.T.O.N.E.S. Drama Team will perform for the Sunday School Festival of Saints on Nov. 1.

4. Preparations are being made for Angel Tree collections.
5. The youth are preparing for the first Parent's Night Out on Dec. 5.
6. Life Teen
 - a. Youth, adults, and priests from St. Pat's in Fremont have joined our Life Teen youth for the last two meetings. They are beginning their own Life Teen program in the next few weeks.
 - b. In order to offer our students more choices for summer service and faith experiences, pairing with other Life Teen groups is being considered.

V. School Report: Dr. David Peters

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. School Advisory report – The group spent most of their time on next year's calendar.
- C. The First Quarter Demerit/Office referral report looked very good.
- D. Concerns regarding shortened hours for Teacher Associates were discussed.
- E. Archbishop Lucas showed great enthusiasm at the Fall Conference in West Point, NE.
- F. Archbishop Lucas will celebrate an all-school Mass on Nov. 6. The 8th Graders are working on an icon of St. Stephen which will be presented to the archbishop.
- G. Lunch meetings have been held with the Leadership Council, consisting of three students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- H. The Youth Frontiers retreat held on Sept. 29 was a great success. Students from Skutt helped with the retreat, which was made possible by a grant and Home and School.
- I. Catholic High Schools made recruitment presentations to the 7th and 8th graders in Oct.
- J. Information is being gathered regarding School Uniform providers. Options will be evaluated.
- K. 6th Graders from the Omaha area will attend a Vocation Awareness Day at Skutt High School on Oct. 23.

VI. Pastor's Report – No Pastor's report was given.

VII. Old Business

- A. The voting Board members met after the meeting to revise Polices numbered 3000.
- B. Several Board members have been doing research into survey mechanisms. A decision will be made at the next meeting about purchasing a computer program for this purpose.

VIII. New Business

- A. A discussion was held about a letter from the Archdiocesan School Board. This Board has a number of vacancies that need to be filled. Several of our BOE members expressed interest.

IX. Adjournment and Prayer