

**St. Stephen the Martyr
Board of Education Minutes
September 20, 2011**

Attendance:

Board Members: Jeanne Meyer, Joyce Snowden, Nicole Neesen, Chris Shouse. Absent: Greg Youell
Parish Administration: Mary Maguire, Dr. Roseanne Williby, Fr. Jim Tiegs, Fr. Joseph Broudou, and Gina Langel. Absent: Tom Jorgensen

I. Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order with a prayer led by Fr. Jim Tiegs.

II. Approval of the August, 2011 Minutes: The minutes were presented for approval. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

III. School Report: Dr. Roseanne Williby

- A. Calendar items were shared including the upcoming 8th grade retreats and the Fall conference for Archdiocesan teachers at Creighton Prep.
- B. Dr. Williby announced that in keeping with the mission of Catholic schools to nurture spiritual, academic, and character development in its students, a new Spirit of St. Stephen Award and a Leadership Award will be given quarterly to students at the Monday assembly. For both awards, each teacher can submit names of students who he/she believes has demonstrated they are virtuous and a leader.
- C. A new resource for parents is being made available through the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. This resource, **Parents First**, has been created to assist parents in their education and formation of their children regarding Catholic teaching on sexuality. The resource will be available to parents in the near future.
- D. It has become important that students be taught the proper response in peer relationships. In working with our counselors, administration, and teachers, grades 2 & 3 as well as grades 4 – 6 are scheduled to see RESPECT plays. The 7th grade class had a full day Courage Retreat, and an outside counselor will address 8th grade students on peer relationships.
- E. Terra Nova standardized achievement tests are being given to grades 3, 5, and 7. The 8th grade students are given the ACT College Readiness test called Explore. In addition, as part of the continuous plan for school improvement, grades 2, 4, and 6 are being given writing prompts to establish baseline data for our goal to improve writing across the curriculum using the Six-Trait Writing Method.

IV. Religious Education Report:

- A. Calendar items were shared. More students are registered in RE this year than at the end of last year.
- B. Confirmation dates for our parish have been set for May 7, 8, and 9, 2012. Confirmation retreats for all 8th grade students in RE and the parish school are being held on Sept 30 and Oct 1st.
- C. A Reconciliation parent meeting will be led by Fr. Jim on October 9th
- D. In conjunction with the parish mission, the 'Kids Against Hunger' project has been shown to RE students in grades 5 – 8.
- E. The YouCat reference texts addressing questions/answers in teaching our faith to youth are being used frequently in the RE classrooms.
- F. Lifeteen and Edge programs have begun for the fall. In addition, a teen F.I.S.H. group is holding YouCat Wednesdays.
- G. A fall weekend retreat at St. Benedict's Center in Schuyler will cover the topic of Theology of the Body for Teens. A deacon and his wife from St. Vincent de Paul will lead the retreat.

V. Pastor's Report:

- A. Fr. Jim expressed his thanks to Dr. Williby and Mary Maguire for getting our school and RE programs off to a good start for the year.
- B. Father also thanked Fr. Joseph Broudou for visiting the school and RE classrooms.
- C. Father Jim also thanked the deacons and Donna Garrett on beautiful presentations during the annual Archdiocesan and parish stewardship appeals.
- D. All parishes in the Archdiocese will use eight Sundays to teach specific aspects of the Mass translations.

VI. Old Business

Names are still being accepted to fill the BOE vacancies.

VIII. New Business

A subcommittee proposal to change the dates of the Board of Education meetings was presented as follows:

Full BOE meetings to be held in the months of November, February, April, June, August, and September.

BOE elected members to meet for subcommittee work in the months of January, and March
No BOE meeting scheduled for the months of October, December, May, and July unless circumstances dictate. An informal Christmas gathering may be scheduled for December.

In months when the Full BOE meetings do not take place, monthly reports from Dr. Williby, Mary Maguire and Fr. Jim will continue via email to board members to communicate needed information.

It was moved and seconded that the proposed changes to the BOE meeting dates be accepted. Motion carried.

President Jeanne Meyer reviewed the five year goals that were established in 08-09 when she first came on the Board of Education and noted that over the past five years, those goals had been met. Jeanne suggested BOE members should give some thought to establishing new long term goals at our next BOE meeting.

IX. Adjournment and Prayer

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.