

**St. Stephen the Martyr  
Board of Education Minutes  
September 15, 2009**

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

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

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

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

- A. Calendar items were shared. It was noted that Sunday, Sept. 20 will be Catechetical Sunday.
- B. Student registration and catechist/volunteer numbers were updated. Fr. Jim and BOE members who attended parent meetings were thanked for helping to set a great tone for the year.
- C. Cookie Dough fundraiser results from sales so far are way down. Lower proceeds will affect the amount of resources the department purchases for catechists to use.
- D. Sacrament preparations include organizing RCIC and RCIT programs, a Reconciliation Parent Meeting on Oct. 11, and Confirmation Rite of Election and planned retreats. Dates for Confirmation will be May 10, 11, & 12.
- E. Some Circle of Grace classes will be videotaped to provide examples of teaching safe environment lessons to children.
- F. **Youth Ministry**
  - 1. An Archdiocesan Youth rally for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18. Archbishop Lucas will attend.
  - 2. The Teen F.I.S.H group has chosen Arms of Love by Carmen Marcoux to study this fall. They will continue to meet for one-night Bible studies the rest of the semester.
  - 3. Life Teen will study Catholic Teachings on Morality first semester, and Social Justice second semester.
  - 4. Edge (middle school students) will study Parables first semester, and Social Justice second semester.
- G. A new Religion curriculum search is being undertaken, with a goal of implementing the new curriculum in 2011. Several concerns regarding the textbook publishing industry and the approval and implementation of the new Roman missal were discussed.

**IV. School Report:** Dr. Dave Peters

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. The School Advisory Committee Report was shared. Items the committee is working on include the Continuous Improvement Plan, textbook adoption, and recruitment ideas.
- C. A history of textbook adoption, a list of current textbooks, and a replacement plan for textbooks was shared.

- D. The success of the Home and School Martyr Marathon was reported. Home and School will use a large portion of those funds to buy Smart Boards for the school.
- E. 55% of 7<sup>th</sup> Graders qualified for the Duke University Talent Identification Program. While not all those who qualified will participate, it's a good indicator of the quality of SSM's academic programs.
- F. Curriculum Night had a very good turnout. Fr. Jim and Al Zach were thanked for attending.
- G. A final copy of the Middle School Handbook for 2009-2010 was distributed to BOE members.
- H. Enrollment numbers as of Sept. 11, 2009 were shared. Total enrollment for PreK – 8 is 893.

**V. Pastor's Report:** Fr. Jim Tiegs

- A. Father reported that his meeting with Archbishop Lucas was very positive. Father was proud to report that the parish has been able to keep up with bills the last two years, mostly because of sacrifices and generosity of many staff and parishioners.
- B. The Parish Festival a wonderful celebration, and netted around \$172,000.
- C. Thanks were expressed to the administrators for a smooth beginning of the academic year, and to Home and School for their support and all the work they do.

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Voting BOE members met after the regular Board meeting to review and revise BOE policies numbered 2000 – 4000.
- B. The Board reviewed and approved a "Board Bits" message for the parish bulletin and The R.E. and school newsletters.

**VII. New Business**

There was no New Business.

**VIII. Adjournment and Prayer**