

**St. Stephen the Martyr
Board of Education Minutes
September 21, 2010**

Attendance: Sandra Jameson, Jeanne Meyer, Joyce Snowden, Nicole Neesen, Greg Youell, Jaime Bizal, Chris Shouse, Mary Maguire, Dr. Dave Peters, Fr. Jim Tiegs, Tom Jorgensen

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

II. Approval of the August 17, 2010 Minutes: The minutes were presented and reviewed. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to table the approval of the minutes until next month pending incorporation of a more complete summary of the presentation by Glenn Stenger from the Parish Finance Council. The motion carried to table the approval of the August 17, 2010 minutes until the October BOE meeting.

III. Religious Education Report: Mary Maguire

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. Eighth grade candidates for confirmation have completed the Rite of Acceptance at this past Sunday's Masses, and an 8th Grade confirmation retreat in coming up the first weekend in October.
- C. Youth Ministry. The schedule and planned topics for Edge and for Life Teen meetings for the year were shared. Wes Kreun, who will soon be ordained as a deacon for our parish, has been actively involved in Life Teen and Edge, and members of the youth groups are following the process of his ordination with interest.
- D. The search for new Religion curriculum for the 2011-2012 school year has been narrowed to 3 possible suppliers. A discussion followed regarding how those 3 suppliers were selected. Any Religion curriculum must have received pre-approval from the U. S. Council of Catholic Bishops before being considered for use in any Catholic School or Religious Ed program. In addition, the Archdiocese of Omaha has approved limited list to be used in this archdiocese. Finally, the St Stephen the Martyr search committee gives further consideration to:
 - Availability of K through 8th curriculum as well as a pre-school component
 - Must have a copyright of 2009 or later
 - Must have a good support system available for both school teachers as well as Religious Education catechists

IV. School Report: Dr. Dave Peters

- A. Calendar items were shared.
- B. The School Advisory Committee met prior to the BOE meeting. Those present in addition to Dr. Peters were teachers representatives, Mary Jackson (K-2nd), Megan Kestel (3 – 5th), Suzanne Brown (6 – 8th), Jim Lebeda (Specials), and Christy Crnkovich, parent, and Nicole Neesen, parent and BOE representative. The role of the School Advisory Committee is to consider and recommend policy changes and to recommend the calendar for the next school year.
- C. Text Book Series List. Dr. Peters presented the current Textbook List and noted the new textbook series which had been acquired for this school year. For the 2010-2011 school year, a complete new Social Studies series was implemented. Dr. Peters is currently reviewing the need to update the Family Life curriculum series which is now out of date by Archdiocesan standards. New curriculum series in Religion and Science are planned for the 2011-2012 school year. A new curriculum series for middle school math and possibly vocabulary and grammar are planned for the 2012-2013 school year.

- D. Dr. Peters reported on the recent curriculum night. Consideration is being given to holding the curriculum parent meetings over two evenings – one for K – 5th grade parents and one for middle school parents.
- E. Dr. Peters reported on the new Excessive Absenteeism policy and reporting that is required by the state Department of Education. In addition, the Archdiocese is now requiring a report showing any students who have been absent 10 or more days during the first semester, and twenty or more days for either first or second semester. Dr. Peters is working with Tom Marble to generate reports to comply with these new requirements.
- F. The fall Archdiocesan Teacher’s Conference will be held on Thursday, September 30th at Skutt Catholic High School. The focus this year will be on academics.
- G. Dr. Peters brought a copy of the new Archdiocesan School Board Policy that was previously distributed electronically to SSM BOE members. BOE members will need to review the SSM policies to determine that SSM policies are in compliance with Archdiocesan School Board Policy.

V. Pastor’s Report:

- A. Fr. Jim Tieggs gave an update on the Parish Strategic Planning process. Goals are currently being clarified and refined by small groups in the areas of Building and Grounds, Liturgy/Spirituality, Adult Formation/ Family Life, Stewardship, Planning and Development, Human Needs/Social Justice, Vocations and Evangelization, School/Technology, and Religious Education/Youth Ministry. A Parish Town Hall is currently planned for November 11th to present more information to parish members.
- B. The replacement of the entryways in both the north and south school commons has been completed. Donations from parishioners of approximately one half the cost of the project has been received to date. This repair was identified as an immediate need in the recent facilities audit.
- C. Fr. Jim will be attending a pastor’s meeting presented by the Catholic Schools Office at which time a restructuring of the Archdiocesan Board of Education to regional boards will be discussed. A major fundraising campaign for the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools will also be discussed.
- D. The parish mission is planned for October 24-27th featuring Bishop Joe Estebrook from Albany, NY. BOE members will be greeters for the evening of Tuesday, October 26th.

VI. Old Business

- A. Dr. Peters reported that Kidzone has received licensing approval from the NE Dept HHS to increase to a maximum of 200 students provided that 7,000 square feet of dedicated space is provided and each space used has two entrances/exits. The previous maximum number of students allowed was 125. Cinda Heiman, Kidzone Director, is currently implementing a transition to bring students into the program from the waiting list as new employees are hired and trained and space adjustments are made. It should be noted that nearly half of the parents of the current Kindergarten class had requested care through Kidzone.
- B. Dr. Peter also provided the most recent copy of the Kidzone Policy manual for BOE members to review.

VIII. New Business

Fr. Jim reported that the annual stewardship report will be published shortly. Sandra Jameson reported that a summary of survey information from the Spring school and RE surveys will be published shortly.

IX. Adjournment and Prayer

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned followed by a closing prayer.