

Education Commission Meeting Minutes - June 21, 2007 (7 p.m.)

Members Present: Jim Siegel, Tony Mastriani, Kim Neltner, Ken Belleman, Lisa Renken, Amy Vonderhaar, and Anita Bidleman

New Members Present: Ed Neltner, Patty Hadden, and Martha Biedermann

Pastor: Father Paul Gebhardt

Ex Officio Members Present: Jean Margello, Jeanne Schaefer, and Jodie Bender

Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Mary Ellen Smith

Faculty Advisor: not present

1. **Introduction of Members** - Everyone re-introduced themselves and shared what kind of music they first became interested in.
2. **Opening Prayer** - Jodie Bender said the opening prayer.
3. **Announcements** - Next meeting is September 20th. The meeting dates for the 07/08 year are: Sept. 20th, Nov. 29th, Jan. 17th, March 13th, May 15th, and June 19th.
4. **Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes** - There was one correction on the May minutes. Motion to approve March and May minutes as amended.
5. **Communication from Parishioners** - None.

REPORTS -

6. **Jodie Bender (DRE)** - Jodie stated that a reminder would go out in Quicklets about Vacation Bible School being the week of July 9th - July 13th. "Avalanche Ranch" is the theme. The Vacation Bible School format will change this year. Stations will be set up. St. Al's is donating the scenery. Also, St. Vivian will be hosting Art Camp this summer for children in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. Jodie is also planning a ministry outing this summer for the youth who help at mass.
7. **Jeanne Schaefer (Youth Minister)** - Jeanne just got back from the Mississippi mission trip. There were lots of people who lost homes that they were able to help. Jeanne would like to work on getting a Youth Ministry scholarship program fully established. There have been six people who applied for scholarships so far, for a variety of activities. Some of these activities have included Faith Formation and Ministry Formation. Jeanne reminded everyone that the "Birds, Bees, and Beyond" program is coming up on July 5th. This program is provided by Catholic Social Services and talks about how to parent teens. There is a small fee for anyone that wants to attend.
8. **Jean Margello (Principal)** - Jean made the announcement that we will be getting some new faculty members this year. Mr. Darrin Lewis will be the new art teacher; (Mrs. Stephan will go into semi-retirement). Mr. Zachary Horstman has been hired as the new

7th and 8th grade Science teacher and 8th grade Social Studies teacher. Also, Ms. Sharon Davis will be returning as the Computer teacher.

Jean talked about changes that need to be made to the Student Handbook for the 07/08 school year in regard to field trips. There was a discussion on clarifying the difference between a "field trip", "service trip", and a "retreat" in the handbook. Jean and Jodie talked about whether or not a child would be permitted to go on a trip based upon the amount of demerits he or she had received. They stated that a child might not be permitted to go on a "field trip", based on demerits, however, they could be permitted to go on a "service trip" (since the trips are two different things). There was a vote to add the word "non-religious" before the word "field trip" to make this more clear. All members passed the motion.

The Dress Code Committee looked at what was written in the Handbook and cleaned it up so that it was clearer. Jean checked with Mrs. Hern regarding the zipper issue. Mrs. Hern said the reason for the no zipper policy on shorts was so that the younger children would not get caught on things and it was for their safety. There was a motion to accept this rule. All members voted to pass this rule.

Jean handed out a paper showing current enrollment. Kindergarten is low, however, 20-22 is the highest amount we could accept.

We have received two AED defibrillators. One is in the church behind the ladder. The other is in the breezeway near Father Jack's picture. We have 8 people trained so far.

9. **School Futures** - Father Paul and Kevin missed the last meeting, however, they are still "tweaking" the Constitution. OLR and St. Clare are consolidating with St. Barts. We are invited to join the discussions. They will choose a new name next year. They are making new governances representative of each parish involved. The board will function not as an advisory, like the Ed. Comm. does, but rather as a school board that makes decisions. July 5th is the next meeting.
10. **Father Paul Gebhardt (Pastor)** - Father Paul talked about the group that is forming called "The Grateful Believers". It is a Christian stewardship group. There will be a "Ministry Fair" as part of the program. It will give groups a place to go and ask for help. The date of the fair is Oct. 20th, and it will be held after all of the weekend Masses.
11. **Temporal Affairs (Tony Mastriani)** - Tony stated that there were no hard numbers on the amount the Festival has made this year so far. He believes we are down from last year by a substantial amount, but our expenses are also down.
12. **Parish Pastoral Council (Mary Ellen Smith)** - June 4th was the last meeting. Jim Brown did a workshop on Parish Pastoral Councils. He was well-received. He did a lot of getting-to-know-you stuff with the new members. He recognized the service of the senior members of the PPC.

There was talk of a Parish Action Plan Committee. This would be a short-term commitment. It is a stewardship program and it is tied to the Ministry Fair. In October, all the commissions will have tables set up at the fair. People would get to ask questions and see what it is like to be involved.

13. Adult Faith (Anita Bidleman) - Women of Faith group is meeting on a regular basis.

Old Business - Father Paul asked if electing members to Ed. Comm. is really the best way. Kevin talked about whether or not to put names in random order on the voting ballot and if this would make a difference.

Father Paul said that he would like to appoint a member to Education Commission and to Parish Pastoral Council. The appointed members would be non-voting members with at least a one-year commitment. Each of these members will be a teenager. This will keep the school and parish more fully informed of the concerns of the younger members of our community. Josh Hafele has already been appointed to become the newest member of the Education Commission. Father Paul will let any interested teen in the parish submit a written statement on why they would like to be involved in the PPC, and he will choose from the candidates.

Father Paul (on a side note) said that due to the unfortunate outcome of the last meeting, he would like to make a new policy. When a student, parishioner, or concerned individual brings an issue to the attention of the Education Commission at a meeting, Father asked that the Commission simply listen to the problem, and then discuss it at the following meeting. This would give some time to come up with reasonable arguments for either side, and curtail any quick decisions or heated discussions. All members agreed to this idea.

Election Results for the 07/08 Year - Kevin will continue as the President of Education Commission. Lisa Renken is the new Vice President. Patty Hadden is the new Secretary (replacing outgoing member, Kim Neltner). Ed Neltner is the new Temporal Affairs Liaison (replacing outgoing member, Tony Mastriani). Kevin McCabe will remain the Tuition Review Liaison.

Adjournment.

7/06/07

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