



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Diocesan Board of Education Diocesan Pastoral Center, Belleville, IL

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, May 18, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Fuehne (North Central) (Excused)
Rev. Matthew Elie (Pastor)
Rev. Gary Gummersheimer (Pastor)
Mrs. Mary Anne Harla (Belleville)
Mr. Troy Heitmeyer (East) (Excused)

Ms. Kris Hill (Principal)
Mrs. Janet Janson (DRE)
Mrs. Anna O’Gara (Belleville)
Mrs. Julia Pluff (West)

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Thomas Posnanski Mr. Russell B. Peterson

A. PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 7:10 p.m. by Rev. Matthew Elie.

Routine Matters

- 1.1 Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved.
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the March meeting were approved.
2. Old Business
 - 2.1 SECOND READING – Policy 6179 – INSTRUCTION – Curriculum Extensions – Social Media
The policy was read and discussed. A motion was made by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer to accept the policy with the change in the last sentence. It is to read, *“The use of social media can, within parameters, set by the accompanying regulation, be effective in adolescent catechesis.”* He also requested that a regulation be created that would explain “the parameters for use with youth and adolescents.” Anna O’Gara seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the policy will be sent to the attorney and then to the Bishop for final approval. The regulation will be presented at the next meeting.
 - 2.2 SECOND READING REVISED – Policy 4113 – PERSONNEL – Teacher Certification
The policy was read and discussed. A motion was made by Mary Ann Harla to accept the policy and seconded by Rev. Matthew Elie. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

- 2.3 SECOND READING REVIEWED – Policy 4116.4 – PERSONNEL – Responsibilities, Duties, Code of Ethics – Drug-Free Workplace; Mary Anne Harla motioned to accept the policy and it was seconded by Chris Hill. The policy was approved and will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.
3. New Business
 - 3.1 FIRST READING REVIEW – Policy 3110 – BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATION – Parish and Local Board Responsibilities in Adult Education
The policy was read. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the September meeting.
 - 3.2 FIRST READING REVIEW – Policy 3111 – BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATION – Lifelong Catechesis/Faith Formation in Parishes
The policy was read. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the September meeting

A. Religion Education Report

1. ACRE

Mr. Peterson reviewed the results of the high school ACRE scores. He stated that the diocesan averages were above the national average in all pillars for the third year in a row. The test is comprised of four pillars: the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. There are many factors that may contribute to the increased scores. One is the knowledge of the Catholic faith by faculty. He stated that most of our high school teachers regardless of academic discipline have neared completion of Initial Catechist Certification. The High Schools have also increased the number of religion teachers with degrees in theology.

2. PSR Textbook Curriculum

Mr. Peterson reported that the committee submitted their recommendations to Bishop Braxton and he accepted them.

The committee members included:

- Mrs. Janet Janson, Director of Religious Education, Immaculate Conception, Columbia.
- Sr. Angela Schrage, ASC, Pastoral Associate, St. Mary, Centralia
- Ms. Kim Diaz, Director of Religious Education, St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
- Sr. Laura Reynolds, OSF, Pastoral Associate, St. John the Baptist, West Frankfort and St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart, Royalton/Zeigler
- Mr. Bill Harper, Director of Religious Education, St. Joseph, Marion
- Mr. Russell Peterson, Diocesan Staff

The following criteria were used to determine recommendations:

1. Conformity to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. Quality teacher/catechist materials
3. Excellence in materials for empowering parents as primary catechists
4. Quality Website with student/young person, catechist/teacher, and parent materials
5. Artwork and Lives of Saints which reflect the diversity of believers in the Catholic Church
6. Use of the Fine Arts including painting and music for catechesis in the textbook and

supplemental materials

7. Excellence in providing and integrating prayer services, rituals, and sacramentals
The ad hoc committee reviewed eleven different Parish grade school level Religion Book series. It then submitted recommendations to Bishop Braxton. He approved the recommendations of the ad hoc committee without changes.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year parish youth faith formation programs (PSR) shall use one of the approved grade school level (grades 1-6) religion book series.

The approved series are:

Blest Are We : Faith and Word Edition (1-6) RCL Benziger P&CM 2008, S&TM 2010
Call to Faith (K-6) Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum S&TM, P&CM 2005, 2009
Faith First Legacy Edition/Parish (K-8) RCL Benziger P&CM ©2006, S ©2007
Finding God: Our Response to Gods Gifts (1-6) Loyola Press S&TM, P&CM ©2005
We Believe (K-6) William H. Sadlier, Inc. S&TM, P&CM ©2004, 2011

At this time the Diocese of Belleville has not completed an approved list for Junior High textbooks for parish youth faith formation (PSR). One of the primary series extends through 7th and 8th grades while the other approved textbooks only extend through 6th grade. The Diocese of Belleville has not determined which textbooks should be used for 7th and 8th grades at this time. That process should be completed within the next couple of months and will be communicated with sufficient notice before implementation.

Parish programs are currently free to continue using their current text. Please also note that the adoption of an approved text for the primary series grades 1-6 is not expected until the 2012-2013 program year. Parish programs are not mandated to change textbooks before August of 2012.

3. Lay Ministry Parish Council

Mr. Peterson reported that he is moving forward conducting Parish Council trainings throughout the diocese. One of the greatest needs for Parish Pastoral Councils is training in Evangelization. Many Pastoral Councils recognize that their parish needs to improve its introduction of Jesus in the community and among the lapsed members. This is part of evangelization. There will be a Parish Pastoral Council Training on October 15, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Building 6. The presenter is Fr. Frank Disiano of the Paulist Evangelization Center. Registration flyers will be distributed to parishes soon.

4. Confirmation

Sue Huett and Russell are carefully reviewing the packet of information sent out from the diocese regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are some discrepancies and some aspects need greater clarity. The revised packets will be available at the Confirmation meetings in September.

5. High School Framework

Mr. Peterson reported that the high school principals, Mr. Posnanski and he met with Bishop Braxton to review the proposed implementation schedule. They presented the implementation plans from each of the high schools for the USCCB Doctrinal *Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. The bishop was very pleased with what the high schools presented and accepted each school's plan without modification.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Teacher Conference – August 9, 2011

Mr. Posnanski reported that a workshop for the all the teachers in the Diocese will be held at Althoff Catholic High School on August 9, 2011. Faculty from McKendree University will provide the staffing for most of the sessions. There will be sessions on the following:

a. Strengthen mathematic programs in all schools – There will be sessions focused on primary level and for middle school level mathematic teachers; b. Exploring various strategies to effectively analyze and communicate results to parents. c. Explore effective teaching strategies to integrate Technology into the curriculum; and d. Explore various strategies using technology to effectively engage students in their Faith Formation.

2. Asbestos Issues

Mr. Posnanski reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health, during an investigation of three elementary schools in the Diocese of Belleville, identified what was believed to be a series of infractions at each of the schools. All schools in the Diocese were sent a letter regarding the final disposition of the case with IDPH. The final disposition included a phrase that the Diocese proposed for all parishes and schools in the Diocese of Belleville. "The resolution of this matter resolves all asbestos issues involving Respondent (the Diocese of Belleville) and its school and parishes up to and including the date of August 20, 2009. (IDPH) complainant agrees that it will not undertake any enforcement actions against the Respondent (Diocese of Belleville) or its schools or parishes for matters existing on or before August 20, 2009." As a result of this statement all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Belleville agreed to share in the fine and lawyer fees which amounted to \$829.00 for each school.

3. Principal Openings

Mr. Posnanski reported that St. Andrew's, Murphysboro, St. James, Millstadt, St. Bruno, Pinckneyville have principal openings. St. Clare, O'Fallon has hired a new principal. Nancy Borgsmiller is retiring after 32 years of teaching and being a principal at St. Andrew.

4. Staff Changes

Mr. Posnanski reported that Marilyn Neu will be retiring at the end of June after 34 years with the diocese. An open house honoring Marilyn is being held on June 12th from 2-4 p.m. in the gym at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

5. Board Meeting Dates 2011-2012

The board meeting dates for the next school year were handed out.

6. Diocesan Accreditation

Mr. Posnanski reported that Cathedral and Gibault High School received State Recognition and Diocesan Accreditation this spring.

The next meeting will be September 20, 2011. The meeting was closed with prayer by Fr. Gary Gummersheimer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schilling, Secretary