



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Diocesan Board of Education Diocesan Pastoral Center, Belleville, IL

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, November 15, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Fuehne (North Central)
Rev. Matthew Elie (Pastor)
Rev. Gary Gummersheimer (Pastor)
Mr. Troy Heitmeyer (East) (Excused)

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

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Thomas Posnanski Mr. Russell B. Peterson

A. PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

1. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved after Mr. Peterson added # 5 Project Inspire Resources to the Religious Education Report..

1.2 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were approved after the correction to the Director’s Report #1 that Dr. Kay Bennett provided an excellent workshop on curriculum mapping at the Teacher Institute on August 9, 2011.

2. Old Business

2.1 SECOND READING REVIEW – Policy 2211.3 – ADMINISTRATION – Elementary Principal – Time Distribution

The policy was read. A motion was made by Janet Jansen to accept the policy and seconded by Anna O’Gara. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

2.2 SECOND READING REVISION – Policy 6145.2 – INSTRUCTION – Interscholastic Athletics – Elementary Level Parish/School Athletic Programs

The policy was read. A motion was made by Fr. Gary Gummersheimer to accept the policy and seconded by Fr. Matthew Elie. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

3. New Business
 - 3.1 FIRST READING – Policy 6111 – INSTRUCTION – School Calendar
The policy was read. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the January meeting.
 - 3.2 FIRST READING – Policy 2470 – ADMINISTRATION – Planning-Consolidation and Closing of Schools
The policy was read. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the January meeting.
 - 3.3 FIRST READING – Policy 6310 – INSTRUCTION - Special Education
The policy was read and Russ Peterson explained the policy. The title will be changed to read Special Needs instead of Special Education. The policy will be submitted with the change for second reading at the January meeting.

C. Religion Education Report

1. Confirmation update
Mr. Peterson reported that all the 2012 Confirmations have been scheduled.
2. PSR/ Parish Youth Faith Formation Report
Mr. Peterson reported that we have 91 parishes with PSR programs. In recognition of the understanding of catechesis as articulated in the *National Directory for Catechesis*, some parishes are moving away from the title Parish School of Religion. A growing number of programs are being named Parish Youth Faith Formation or a similar term. This also brings the terminology closer to the commonly used title Adult Faith Formation for adult catechesis.
3. Lay Ministry/ Parish Council
Mr. Peterson stated that the Evangelization event for parish pastoral councils with Fr. Frank DiSiano held on October 15th was very successful. There were 23 parishes represented and over seventy people attended. Resources by Fr. Frank DiSiano are available through the Office of Religious Education. The recently promulgated diocesan guidelines for parish pastoral councils stress the centrality of evangelization in the planning and work of pastoral councils.
Russell Peterson stated that he is available to present an introduction to the diocesan guidelines to parish pastoral councils.
4. Catechist Certification
Mr. Peterson reported that there were several events coming up to earn certification credits. Both the Catholicism DVDs with Fr. Robert Barron and the Fanning the Flame effort can receive elective credit in the Catechist Certification program.
5. Project Inspire Resources
Mr. Peterson reported that due to the ongoing generosity of several Knights of Columbus Councils the Office was able to purchase several copies of the Rose Kennedy Resource for Faith Formation for those with Mental Retardation and the newly created First Eucharist preparation for those with Autism. These are available for parish use through the Audio Visual Department free of charge. Several other free resources were also purchased and can be obtained through the Office of Religious Education.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Illinois Catholic School Principals & Presidents Conference
Mr. Posnanski reported that all diocesan principals are required to attend the conference on March 18-20 in Bloomington, Illinois. The Title of the conference is A Spirituality of Catholic School Leadership for the Twenty-first Century. The Featured speaker is Reverend Antony Ciorra from Fordham University.
2. ITBS Report
Mr. Posnanski reported that Mike Buscher will be giving a full report at the January meeting. The initial review all of the schools scores are very impressive. Mr. Posnanski stated that the math scores especially showed marked improvement. He also stated that after consultation with the elementary principals the Diocese will continue to use ITBS for Standardized testing for the next five years.
3. Report on Schools – School Viability process
Mr. Posnanski reported that all schools are completing the Pastoral Plan for Parish Renewal and Restructuring, School Evaluation Instrument, Attachment E. These reports must be submitted by January 31, 2012 and that all parishes must submit their forms by March 30, 2012.
4. Tuition/Fees/CCP
Mr. Posnanski provided handouts on the Tuition/Fees 2011-2012 for our elementary schools. He also gave handouts on the Cost of Educating a student by schools.

The next meeting will be January 17, 2012.. The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schilling, Secretary