



**THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE**  
**Diocesan Board of Education**  
**Diocesan Pastoral Center, Belleville, IL**

**Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday, March 24, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Mrs. Barbara Conrad (East St. Louis) ( <i>Excused</i> )	Mr. Troy Heitmeyer (East)
Mr. Dale Dieters (North Central)	Ms. Kris Hill (Principal)
Mr. Ben Fuehne (North Central)	Mrs. Janet Janson (DRE)
Rev. Gary Gummersheimer (Pastor)	Mrs. Anna O'Gara (Belleville)
Mrs. Mary Anne Harla (Belleville)	Mrs. Julia Pluff (West) ( <i>Excused</i> )

**EX-OFFICIO:**

Mr. Thomas Posnanski            Mr. Russell B. Peterson

**A.     PRELIMINARY ACTIONS**

1.     The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer at 7:00 p.m.

**B.     RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1.     Routine Matters
  - 1.1    Approval of Agenda  
          The agenda was approved as presented.
  - 1.2    Approval of Minutes  
          The minutes of the January meeting were approved.
  
2.     Old Business
  - 2.1    SECOND READING REVIEW -- Policy 1120 – Community Relations – Board of Education Meetings  
          The policy was read. A motion was made by Ben Fuehne to approve the policy and was seconded by Anna O'Gara and approved by the board.  
          The policy will be sent to Bishop Braxton for final approval.

**SECOND READING REVIEW – Policy 6153.1 – Instruction -Instructional Service – Field Trips – Sleeping and Overnight Arrangements**

The policy was read. It was suggested that the phrase (With very small children) in the second sentence of number five be clarified. The following wording was decided - "Young children, grade 2 or lower, one adult for every seven or eight children might be considered." A motion was made by Rev. Gummersheimer to accept the policy with the above noted change and seconded by Mary Anne Harla. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

3. New Business

3.1 First Reading Review – Policy 5125.1 – Students –  
Video/Photograph/Taping of Students

The policy was read. A discussion followed and additional questions and concerns were raised. The policy will be reviewed again at the May meeting.

3.2 First Reading Review – Policy 4116.1 – Personnel-Responsibilities,  
Duties, Code of Ethics – Moral/Ethical Education

The policy was read and discussed. It was decided to eliminate the words (Moral/Ethical Education) in the title. The wording “must be exemplified” will be changed in the first sentence to read “must be modeled and promoted.” The sentence “Student behavior should exhibit these values” was added after the first sentence. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the May meeting.

3.3 First Reading Revision – Policy 2430 – Administration – Board of  
Education

The policy was read and discussed. It was decided to remove “Boards of Education” in the title. Russ Peterson and Tom Posnanski are to revise the title. The policy will be submitted for second reading at the May meeting.

B. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. ITBS Report

Michael Buscher was unable to attend the meeting. He will give a report at the May meeting.

2. School Financial Statistics

Mr. Posnanski handed out a report on the Annual Fund data for the Catholic Schools in the Diocese. (Enclosure) Mr. Posnanski stated that some schools are giving tuition assistance through their Annual Funds. He is encouraging the schools to put 7-13% of their total budget for tuition assistance.

3. Catholics at the Capitol

- Education – Russell Peterson reported that 180 schools attended throughout the state and 30 of those schools were from the Diocese of Belleville. He said there were about 3,600 people for the school rally. There were three goals of this rally. They are listed below within the larger order.

- Adult Advocacy – Russell Peterson reported that this rally occurred one hour before the Education rally. There were about 500-700 in attendance. The following seven issues were the focus of *Catholics at the Capitol*:

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1. legislation to increase the Education Expense Tax Credit, utilized by Catholic school parents, from \$500 to \$1000 annually;
2. budget relief to ensure federal and state reimbursements are provided to Catholic health care and nursing homes on a timely basis;

3. opposition to legislation equating same-sex unions to marriage;
  4. legislation mandating that a woman seeking an abortion be offered the opportunity to view a sonogram before the procedure;
  5. legislation or budgetary action to provide a cost of doing business increase and budgetary action to provide prompt payments for Catholic Charities and other social service providers;
  6. budget support for community organizations and parishes to provide English classes to immigrants;
  7. legislation to finally abolish the death penalty.
4. Parish ACRE  
Russell Peterson reported that approximately 10% of our eighth grades PSR students participated in this assessment tool. The PowerPoint presentation is available at [www.diobelle.net](http://www.diobelle.net) or can be requested from Russell at [rpeterson@diobelle.org](mailto:rpeterson@diobelle.org). This was the first year that ACRE provided a National Parish average which did not include Catholic School scores. In comparison to the National Parish average our programs were equal to 2% lower in Faith Knowledge when results were segmented according to the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The affective scores revealed a high level of contentment with the PSR and very positive attitudes about the parish.
5. Lay Ministry  
JustFAITH – Russ Peterson reported that JustFAITH is a thirty-week formation process that explores the intersection of spirituality and social justice. A handout was given out with the registration form for the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Enclosure)
- Lay Ministry – Russ Peterson distributed a handout which has been created in response to requests regarding ministry description and financial compensation for Coordinators of Religious Education. Board members were asked for opinions on the document.
- Parish Leadership  
A draft of a Pastoral Council organization flow chart was distributed for discussion. Russell intends on having revised materials for Pastoral Council training available in the upcoming months.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2009. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schilling, Secretary

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**Office of Education**

2620 Lebanon Avenue, Building 6 · Belleville, Illinois 62221-3299

Phone (618) 235-9601 · Fax (618) 235-7115

The Office of Education is funded by the Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal