



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Diocesan Board of Education Diocesan Pastoral Center, Belleville, IL

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday, September 15, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Fuehne (North Central)	Ms. Kris Hill (Principal)
Rev. Gary Gummersheimer (Pastor)	Mrs. Janet Janson (DRE)
Mrs. Mary Anne Harla (Belleville)	Mrs. Anna O'Gara (Belleville)
Mr. Troy Heitmeyer (East)	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 7:00 p.m. by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer.
2. Election of new officers took place and Ben Fuehne was elected President and Julia Pluff Vice-President.

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 May meeting were approved.
2. Old Business
 - 2.1 SECOND READING REVISION -- Policy 5125.1 – Students - Video/Photograph/Taping of Students
The policy was read. A motion was made by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer to accept the policy and seconded by Julia Pluff. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.
 - 2.2 SECOND READING REVIEW – Policy 3240.2 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Tuition Fees – Parish Assessment for Neighboring Parishes of Elementary Schools
The policy was read. A motion was made by Janet Janson to accept the

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policy and seconded by Mary Anne Harla. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

- 2.3 SECOND READING REVIEW – Policy 4116.11 – Personnel – Responsibilities, Duties, Code of Ethics – Supervision of Students
The policy was read and discussed. Russ Peterson suggested we change the word PSR to Parish Faith Formation throughout the policy. It was also suggested that the last sentence read – *School/Parish Faith Formation personnel or volunteers assigned this supervision should be twenty-one years of age, in full compliance with the Diocesan Child Protection program and are expected to act as reasonably prudent adults in providing for the safety of the students in their charge.*
There was much discussion regarding the last sentence of the policy. Tom will check with Kevin Richter and Bill Johnson and the policy will be brought back to our November meeting with the suggested changes.
- 2.4 SECOND READING REVIEW – Policy 4116.2 – Personnel/Students – Personnel- Responsibilities, Duties, Code of Ethics – Racial/Sexual Harassment
The policy was read. A motion was made by Julia Pluff to accept the policy with attorney approval and seconded by Rev. Gary Gammersheimer. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval.

3. New Business

- 3.1 Elimination of Policy 6170
The policy was read. A motion was made by Julia Pluff to eliminate the policy and seconded by Troy Heitmeyer. The motion was passed and the policy will be forwarded to the Bishop for final approval to eliminate this policy. This policy was eliminated because it was a duplicate of Policy 6170.1.

B. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Enrollment
Mr. Posnanski reported on the enrollment of the current school year for K-8 and the three secondary schools. He provided a spreadsheet comparing the enrollment from the previous years. Fourteen of our parochial schools showed an increase in enrollment while the rest along with our secondary schools showed a decrease in enrollment. A number of the schools showing a decrease were schools that stated they lacked sufficient tuition assistance.
2. H1N1 Report
Mr. Posnanski reported that the St. Clair Health Dept. asked all the Belleville schools to be sites to administer the flu vaccine. The public schools declined but the Catholic schools agreed to make their school a site to give the vaccine to their students and staff only. We consulted with Bill Johnson of Catholic Mutual

regarding liability and he said that school personnel and volunteers recruited to assist would be covered under the current policy. A principals' meeting was held and each school was asked to have appropriate procedures in place and appropriate permission forms in place if a school would proceed with being a location for flu vaccinations. Schools are also to have a maintenance plan for cleaning school facilities in place and must have an isolation room for students that become ill at school. Schools were asked not to close unless there weren't enough teaching personnel available. The office has emailed information to all schools.

3. Response to Intervention (RTI)

Mr. Posnanski reported that this program will be mandated in all schools by the fall of the year 2010. All teachers and principals attended workshops prior to beginning of the school year to learn more about Response to Intervention and how to implement this comprehensive approach to learning to insure that the academic needs of all students are addressed by all schools in the Diocese of Belleville.

4. Adolescent Catechesis

Yes! Congress - Russell Peterson reported about "YES! Youth Engaging Scripture" which will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009. This program enables youth to come together around the Word of God to collectively seek direction in their lives. The Yes! Congress on the Bible is a one-day event that is sponsored by the diocese and underwritten by a grant.

Using Web 2.0 for Effective Faith Formation – Russ Peterson reported that we have presentations going on in five of the deaneries this fall. We have had two sessions so far. The session begins with a nine minute clip from Bishop Braxton followed by the pros and cons of using Facebook, YouTube, etc. to reach our youth. This is for catechists and teachers of 6th through 8th grade Catholic Schools, Parish Schools of Religion, and other parish faith formation programs. It replaces the yearly Confirmation meeting for this year. The presenters are Paul Masek and Gretchen Pacheco from the REAP Team.

Adolescent Catechesis Event on Scripture – Russ Peterson reported that this event will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at St. Joseph's Marion. This is for the East and South deaneries. The presenter will be Sara McGinnis Lee with music provided by Karl Zimmerman. This event is partially funded by a grant. It is seeking to serve the unique needs of those teens living in a Rural, Evangelical setting.

5. Lay Ecclesial Ministry

Book Discussion – Russ Peterson reported that this free luncheon and book discussion will be held on December 10, 2009 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. This event is free and is sponsored by RCI Benziger. This will be a book discussion on "Charity" by Virgiol Elizondo.

Diocesan Convention – Russ Peterson reported that the convention will be held on October 9, 2009 at Holy Trinity Parish. The speakers for this event are Kathy Hendricks, Dr. Daniel Finacune, and Oddwalk (Orin Johnson and Shannon Cerneka). He invited the board members to attend.

6. Catechist Certification

Russ Peterson gave out a handout of the certification classes held this summer along with the name of the class, presenter and those who attended. He commented that the retreat was cancelled due to the low number of registrants. He also reported that 170 copies of the Role of the Catechist-Echoes of Faith Plus have been sent out to schools and parishes since last September. This is the reading material for the apprentice level catechist. It is a three hour session.

7. Parish School of Religion

Russ Peterson reported that he is continuing the cluster meetings throughout the diocese again this year. The three objectives for these cluster meetings are: 1. for the diocesan office to hear about their efforts in catechist formation, faith formation in sexuality, and crisis action plans; 2. for the diocesan office to learn about their parish's adult faith formation, first communion preparation, and empowering parents as primary catechists; 3. for Catechetical Leaders to share with each other their best practices in the use of art and music in PSR.

Board Comments:

There were several questions raised by the board members at the meeting. Troy Heitmeyer asked, "Is there anything we can do if a teacher breaks their contract?" He said this is so frustrating thinking you have your teachers in place back in May when they signed their contract and then they resign right before the school year. Everyone agreed there is nothing the Diocese can do and you wouldn't want a teacher that doesn't want to stay anyway.

Another question asked, "Does the diocese have set standards for Pre-K?" Mr. Posnanski answered that pre-schools connected to Catholic elementary schools are to follow the state standards for Pre-K/Pre-Schools in the Diocese of Belleville.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2009. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Gary Gummersheimer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schilling, Secretary