

Education Commission Meeting April 28, 2010

Present: Amy Blomberg, Keith Fruehling, Stephanie Goodley, Ryan Hendrickson, Mary Horn, Kellie Kaefring, Monsignor Merdian, Mark Pollard, John Schmitt, Angie Washburn

Absent: Mary Hazen, Father Miller, Kathy Scherer, Manoj Shenoy

1. *Call to Order and Opening Prayer* – offered by Monsignor Merdian at 7:02
2. *Roll Call and Introductions* – group read the mission statement
3. *Approval of Minutes* – motion passed, minutes approved
4. *Religious Education Report* – report distributed to members via email from Mary Hazen. Final CCD class is May 2, concluding with a May Crowning and Rosary and family potluck. An advisory committee of CCD parents will meet this summer to plan activities for the coming year. Several catechists will be needed next year. 61 children received their First Communion on April 24. Confirmation will be on November 20 at 2:00. Over 100 children have registered for Angel Camp (June 21-25). Still taking registrations and looking for volunteers and props. The Diocesan Summer Institute is scheduled for June 12-13 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Peoria. The Champaign vicariate Religious Education Network is planning the Equip 2010 workshop for August 28 at Holy Cross. Monsignor added that he and Fathers Miller and Lampitt have been spending more time in the classrooms.
5. *School Finances* – Recommended budget was presented to Ed Comm. Money had been added for new books since the state was no longer providing funding for them. The budget is based on 450 students. It was noted that the parish has given \$97,000 in tuition assistance to St. Matthews families this year. The year to date report was mostly on track for the year.
6. *Parents' Club Report* – Parents' Club sent a report via email to the Ed Comm members. The Enrichment Committee has been very successful – the Chess Club is very popular and has a club tournament going on right now. The Drama Club is presenting the Phantom Toll Booth May 6, 7, and 8. For the Lenten Volunteer opportunity PC had about 10 adults and 10 students assist a blind woman with house cleaning and outside chores. A committee has been placed to develop criteria for the Peacemaker Award, to be called the St. Francis Award – hopefully to be awarded at this year's awards ceremony. Had good parental involvement with the fish fries. The PC Adoration Hour will continue through May. An average of ten parents have participated. PC allocated \$10,500 to be used for technology improvement. Teachers will look at smart boards and white boards. Nominating Chair, Janet Brown presented the following slate for the 2010-2011 year: Karen and Mark Pollard – PC President; Cindy and Ted Brya – Vice

President; Bobbie Jo and Justin Kirby – Secretary; Karen and Tim Barnes – Treasurer. Only one committee currently remains without at chair. Transition work and year-end reports will begin in April. All 2010-2011 goals have been met (assuming the Peacemaker Award is presented in May). The Education Commission wishes to thank Tece and Ryan Hendrickson for all of their leadership and hard work as President of the Parents' Club, especially for their emphasis on the spiritual element.

7. *Athletic Commission Report* – Met to organize leadership for fall sports. All head coaches are in place. According to Dioceses rules, coaches have to have a meeting with the parents of the participating students. Enough money was collected this year through ticket sales and parental support that new uniforms are being purchased for a couple of teams. Athletic Director, Joe Kriegel and Kathy Scherer have found a program developed by a family from the Columbine tragedy that both feel is very effective and moving, that has an athletic take to it that they would like to show to the older athletes and their parents. Joe is currently looking to see the availability of the program in hopes of presenting it next fall. It was noted that Peaceable Schools could also help with the program. Monsignor also asked that we emphasize and encourage virtue based behavior at St. Matthews.
8. *Committee Reports* –
 - a. Nominating – Ed Comm needed to fill two positions next year. The Nominating Committee brought two names to the meeting. One position was offered to Keith Fruehling (current Athletic Commissioner, abstained from vote). Mark Pollard made the motion, Mary Horn seconded it – motion passed. Marni Boppart was nominated to fill the second position. Angie Washburn moved to offer Marni a position on Ed Comm, Amy Blomberg seconded it – motion passed. We are pleased to continue to work with Keith and welcome Marni – we look forward to working with you. A new representative will join us in the fall under the position of Athletic Commissioner.
 - b. Engagement Committee – No report given
9. *Unfinished Business* –
 - a. Policy Changes – Voted to have twelve voting members of the Education Commission – 9 nominated by committee and appointed by Monsignor, as well as the roles of Parents' Club President, Athletic Commissioner, and Finance Chair. The ex-officio members of Ed Comm are the Pastor, the Bishop, the Vicar General, the Superintendent of Schools, the Principal, the Parochial Vicar(s), and the Director of Religious Education. The motion to approve was made by Ryan Hendrickson and seconded by Mary Horn. The motion passed.
 - b. Energy Audit – The Facilities Commission is moving forward with this, so there is no need for us to duplicate their work. They are looking at several options already. Unit Four is already implementing some of the findings of their energy audit.

10. *New Business*

- a. Principal Search – The search committee for the new principal has received several well qualified applications for the open position. They have narrowed the list down and are currently checking references and hope to hold interviews the week of May 11th. Following Diocesan guidelines, the search committee will bring its recommendation to the Education Commission for approval at the May 19th meeting. If approved, the new principal will be announced before the end of the current school year.
- b. Cyberbullying – Phillippe Geubelle came to talk to Ed Comm about the concern over cyberbullying and about what can and cannot be done about it. Citing an instance of cyberbullying in the school, (not to mention the recent tragedy involving cyberbullying in Massachusetts) Phillippe felt moved to a cyberbullying seminar at Edison Middle School recently. He reported learning that it is an increasing problem (especially “sexting”). According to the police officer leading the seminar, the only way to deal with the problem is through the police – it is a legal matter. It is essential that parents understand that their role in not allowing this to happen is crucial, as well as their own liability if their child is involved. Ed Comm discussed having the officer come to a school assembly to address the problems and potential repercussions of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is mentioned in our discipline policy, but Ed Comm felt that it might need to be beefed up, especially if the recommended action is to involve the police. One of the things that makes cyberbullying so dangerous and difficult to track or punish is, unlike normal bullying, it is anonymous. It was noted that peaceable schools could also help with this.

11. *Pastor’s Comments* – Monsignor asked that everyone pray for our search for a new principal, and emphasized the importance of confidentiality in the process.

12. *Executive Session* – No executive session was taken.

13. *Next Meeting Date* – Next meeting is Wednesday, May 19th, 7:00.

14. *Closing Prayer and Adjournment* - Monsignor Merdian led us in a closing prayer.

15. *Adjourn* – Angie Washburn moved to adjourn at 8:15; Stephanie Goodley seconded. Motion approved.