

**Saint Matthew Parents' Club**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 7:00 pm**  
*Multi-Purpose Room*  
**Meeting Minutes**

- I. Call to Order – Opening Prayer – Mrs. Scherer
- II. Roll Call – Cindy Brya, Stacey DeLorenzo, John Hansen, Julie Hansen, Kristin Hummel, Tece Hendrickson, Amy Hubbard, Monsignor Merdian, Jane Plankenhorn, Karen Pollard, Kathy Scherer, Gabrielle Schmitt
- III. Approval of minutes – January 2009 minutes were accepted by John Hansen and seconded by Gabrielle Schmitt.
- IV. Principal's Report – Mrs. Scherer

A. Standardized Test Scores

Mrs. Scherer reviewed the results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) taken by 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in September. The test scores consistently show that St. Matthew students are above average in both cognitive and achievement sections of the test. The cognitive scores predict achievement test scores and the achievement scores show students' actual level of achievement. In just about all grades and all areas the achievement scores of St. Matthew students are higher or significantly higher than their cognitive scores. This is a very good indicator of the quality of education/curriculum at St. Matthews and the hard work that is done by students, teachers, and families to educate our students. The only area where achievement scores are lower than cognitive scores is in Math Computation. Rocket Math, which has been in use for about two years may be closing the gap somewhat but it is still a little early to tell.

This was the first year with the ITBS tests. Prior to this school year Terra Nova tests had been used for 10 years. The change in standardized test was a Diocese decision. The ITBS test, like the Terra Nova test, is normed for Fall.

The Diocese requires the standardized tests for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, but St. Matthew gives the test to all students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades because the scores provide useful information about how students/ school are doing and where improvements can be made.

V. Pastor's Report – Monsignor Merdian

Monsignor Merdian mentioned different things going on during Lent and encouraged everyone to participate. Disciples in Mission small groups have started, an extra noon Mass is available on Wednesday's, Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 5:30pm, and Penance Services around the area the last week in March. There is also a food drive this weekend to support St. Vincent D'Paul House.

VI. President's Report – No Report.

VII. Treasurer's Report – John Hansen

The current fund balance is \$63,243, with \$1,542.71 of that being money allotted to the teachers from book fair profits. Winter Carnival profit was about \$10,000.

Sister Veronica recently used some funds from book fair money to purchase Stations of the Cross books for K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The Maintenance expense item will go up \$1050 next month reflecting the cost to fix the freezer. It required a new compressor. There was a question about whether it has been properly maintained in the past (does it get any regular maintenance).

The Faculty/Student Development fund expense will go up with the final payment for Peaceable Schools Program coming in.

A question came up again about the whereabouts of the phone that was located by the new gym.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Box Tops

Amy Hubbard stepped up and offered to chair the Box Tops Committee, with hope that Gabrielle Schmitt will co-chair with her.

B. Scrip – Still need new chair

C. School Kits – Still need new chair

A question came up about whether we want to continue School Kits. The school does not make much money. It is more a convenience to parents

and the price on some items is expected to go up as much as 40% this year.

D. Book Fair – no report

E. Enrichment

One of the actions from the Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP) for the Parents' Club was to form a committee to identify and implement enrichment activities. Tece will talk to the Payonks about organizing a committee to start looking at this task. Let them know if you are interested in serving on the new committee. A suggestion was made to make sure the committee has a mix that includes parents of older kids.

IX. Unfinished/Continuing Business

The Payonks are still looking for a list serve service. After further consideration Jerry didn't think that Goggle or Yahoo will really provide the school with what it needs to be able to contact parents via email.

Recycling is going well, so well a 4<sup>th</sup> bin would be useful. Currently, Allied Waste does not provide dumpsters for recyclable waste.

X. New Business

A bill was received in the office for the school's Sam's Club card. At this point no one is sure who has the card (perhaps someone in Hospitality). A suggestion was made that once the card is located that it be kept somewhere where it can be used for Winter Carnival or other school events since Sam's Club will not allow tax exemption unless the school's card is presented.

XI. Adjourn.

Next Meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> in the MP Room.