

SAINT MICHAEL EDUCATION COMMISSION MINUTES
May 3, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:10pm, Opening prayer led by Steve Gehring

IN ATTENDANCE: Jody Farrell, Lori Anne Fothergill, Sherry Reilly, Bridget Zentmeyer, Susan Jansing, Jamie Alvord, Laura Strachan, Steve Gehring, and Audrey Clark.

MINUTES: Approved as written, previously e-mailed to committee members

PRINCIPAL REPORT:

-St. Michael School Wellness Policy: reviewed by Commission members and unanimously approved. Further discussion included examples of treats being encouraged in the classroom, one salty, one sweet and one natural.

-The school community took the opportunity to participate in the National Day of Prayer by praying the rosary in honor of Mary.

-First Communion will be celebrated in three groupings or individually. Eighth graders receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 15th. These Easter sacraments are open to the parish community.

-The registration process is complete for next school year. The current student total is 409 (which is up from the current year.) Please refer to the School Report handout for specifics.

-A change has been proposed by Mrs. Farrell after consulting with teachers and the PTO board regarding SAC. Currently, the main purpose has been to channel parent concerns and complaints, however the group has only met once within the past two years. The proposal is that the makeup will stay as it is currently with the additional responsibility of advisory board for the school meeting every other month of so. The group would remain as a subcommittee of the Education Commission. This initiative and change was embraced by the current commissioners and will be put in place in the next school year.

-Current reading specialist Marguerite Erb, is retiring. It is hoped that a new reading specialist can be hired through the Princeton School District which would be cheaper than through Hamilton County. Linda Comstock, current school secretary is also retiring. Mrs. Gail Florea has been hired as school secretary next school year. Thanks to these fine ladies for their years of service.

-Eighth Grade Graduation is May 30th at 7:00pm, the last day of school is May 31st.

AFF:

-RCIA: Six new adult members and one child were received into the Catholic faith at Easter Vigil. May 9th marks the completion of their formal RCIA process. Our new members are discerning ministries. Two people are ready to start the pre-catechumante process in June. An Open House will be held May 23 @7:00pm.

-Baptism Preparation Ministry: Current presenting couples (3) will be asked to help evaluate the program if an effort to improve. It should be noted that the couples also host and greet on the baptismal day. All first time parents have been receiving an information packet every 6 months with a newsletter and gift for the first three years of their child's life. The pastoral staff then encourages them to participate in the pre-school religious education program.

-Luke Bible Study: Will successfully finish April 30th. On Monday nights the group has averaged 15 in number and 5 on Wednesday mornings. Matthew (cycle A) in resume in September.

-Evenings of Reflection: Fr. Jack Wessling presented in March with approximately 250 - 300 people attending. Jeanne Hunt and Mary Malloy presented in May to approximately 100 people. The '07/'08 season will begin in October, continuing on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Additionally, a parish mission is planned for March 4 - 5, 2008.

-Project Hope/St. Gabriel: A work team of 4 men just completed an amazing week hanging 130 12 ft sheets of drywall in Fr. Doug's parish home. Jim Hunter took pictures which will be displayed in the Gathering Space and featured in the Messenger. Now that the parish community is building up, Fr. Doug has decided to move forward with the plans for the newly renovated church

-Little Books: The AFFT decided to hand out the Little Books at no cost to parishioners at Advent, Lent and Easter.

-Mother's Day Baby Shower: This project has been taken on by the Community Outreach Commission per the suggestion of an Education Commissioner. Donations will benefit the Pregnancy Care Center and will be solicited for 2 weeks. The COC will reevaluate to determine whether donations will be solicited between Mother's Day and Father's Day next year.

-Adult Education: St. Michael and the cluster parishes with which it is partnered is offering a workshop for seasonal, age appropriate ideas and activities which is scheduled for August 20, 2007. The other courses being offered are:

- Christian Morality in October at St. Susanna
- Liturgy & Rites in November at St. Michael
- Justice and Peace in April at St. Margaret of York
- Technology in Catechesis & Catholic Identity in April, TBD

These courses are encouraged for all catechists/teachers and are additionally open to any adult in the parish who would like to update their knowledge of their Catholic faith.

YFF

-Fund Raising for World Youth Day 2008: The flower sale was successful, especially for getting a late start, realizing approximately \$1,00.00 in profit. Total funds raised from other efforts as well are \$3,00.00 (which includes the flower sale profits.)

-Project Hope: Planned for July 2007, Lori Anne is confirming teen commitments, has a bus for 54 passengers, 2 cooks for the week, and a commitment from Lowe's to provide training in drywall installation and tile floor laying free for the youth attending the mission trip.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

-New President: Steve Gehring

-New Secretary: Bridget Zentmeyer

-Discernment:5/17: Susan, Bridget, Audrey and possibly Jamie

5/24: Jamie and Audrey

5/31: Sherry, Susan and Steve

Audrey will copy our newly written EC Mission statement. Laura will "float" amongst sessions.

-PPC has asked we try to increase usage of the Scrip Program

-EC meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month and resume as business meetings in September. Steve plans to lead prayer in September.

CLOSING PRAYER: led by Steve

NEXT MEETING

June 4, 2007 at Laura Strachan's house. We will have dinner together @6:30pm, Laura and Bill's address is 4114 Carriagelite, their home phone: 769-7217, cell # 377-6021. We will be hosting our newest members as this event takes place after Discernment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Jansing