

St. Jude Parish Education Commission
February 5, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bob Huber, Jerry Weber, Jen Buse, Micki Deutenberg, Angie Schroeder, Mike Loth, Kathy Reid, Missy Meinhardt, Mike Nieman, Chris Hoferer, Elaine Kroger, Renee DeJaco, Doug Pelzel.

Absent: Isaak A. Isaak, Mary Hatch

Approval of Minutes: Jen Buse and Kathy Reid.

Opening Prayer: Fr. Eric

Previous Business/Announcements:

Jen Buse – Open House – All agreed the open house went very well. Reviewed the event and discussed the enrollment numbers for next year. Ideas include:

1. Include teacher's certification/areas of expertise/special interests,
2. Use more tour guides, particularly from 12-1,
3. Increase Kindergarten teacher availability or consider running set presentation every 10 minutes, doubling up with families, etc.
4. New Flyers – more professional and eye catching colorful brochures (example provide by Missy Meinhardt),
5. New yard signs for next year – need to brighter and larger writing so they can be more easily read from a distance.

Fr. Eric agreed that we are currently okay financially to spend extra money on these new items for next year. Email Jen with any other comments, suggestions, and questions. Jen will do open house again next year.

Mike Loth: Presented his information about algebra program.

Report Items:

Teachers' Report: Mr. Pelzel – reported that the 8th graders had gone on their Confirmation Retreat. Confirmation will be this weekend. Ms. DeJaco reported that the 5th graders were going on a field trip to the Planetarium. The 6th graders would be starting a unit on reproduction in February. Mrs. Kroger reported that the first grade and kindergarten students had celebrated the 100th day of school. First grade had completed a Penguin unit and had “Penguin Day” for which PTO supplied items. All classes are beginning to study the Lenten season.

Principal's Report:

Science Lab: Mr. Huber has signed contract for the installation of the new science lab. It will be installed over the summer in July. The lab will be open to all grades and will reserve on a sign up basis. Ms. DeJaco provided valuable input about the need for a consumables budget for the science lab. All agreed the new science lab was a huge selling point at open house and hope it will be used by all classes.

Additional Items: Parent Surveys will be sent out to all school families this week. Mr. Huber says the surveys were kept the same for consistency and accurate results. The terra Nova results were shared and Mr. Huber said that there were some confusing data on the reports. He will meet with the Archdiocese for clarity. Jerry volunteered to go with Mr. Huber for that meeting. The school mission statement was handed out and reviewed - no major changes were made.

PTO Report: Chris reported that PTO provided t-shirts to 8th graders and teachers who participated in the volleyball game for Catholic Schools Week. T-shirts were also provided for the Bible Bowl and Power of the Pen participants. For Catholic Schools Week the PTO provided food, snacks, staff treats, the Fire and Ice Show, lunch for the science fair judges, and facilitated the "Souper Bowl". The PTO also provided the K and 1st graders with 100 Day and Penguin items. Upcoming events: Penny Race, Grandparents Day, Everybody Counts and Skating Party. The Fire and Ice show was well received by all but the need for a new microphone in the auditorium came up as a future need. The PTO's February meeting was canceled due to lack of participation. Next year the PTO will be looking for New President, Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary.

Pastor's Report: The church office has new computers and server. Fr. Eric's new email is the stjudeparish.org. Fr. will be on vacation in February.

Discussion Items:

Jen Buse: Review of Kindergarten Admission. Policy will remain as is giving us some freedom with discretionary language.

Micki Deutenberg: Is there a possibility of starting after school programs. Mr. Huber will ask teachers if there is any interest at the next principal cluster meeting. Is a stipend available to pay those who want to facilitate a group? All groups must have a purpose.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Eric

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Micki Deutenberg