

St. Thomas Aquinas Board of Education
September 9, 2008
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and began with prayer.

Members present: Shannon Schroeder, Jennifer Klein, Frank Montabon, Mary Mahoney, Ann Gansemer-Topf, Kathy White and Vanessa Pawlovich

Members absent: Fr. Ev Hemann. Dave Wagner and Chris Brubaker are no longer members of the Board. New members will be appointed.

The August meeting minutes were approved.

The September agenda was approved. Since Fr. Ev was not present, new members will be appointed next month.

Inservice: Kathy gave a presentation on the Shared Wisdom/Shared Decision Making Model. This will be adopted by the Board.

Reports:

1. Parish Council/Staff:

- Frank presented the Board's thoughts on the Youth Room to the Staff and Parish council. Some of the staff questioned whether a Youth Room is necessary. They feel that part of the Lower Lounge should be blocked off for this purpose as an experiment before money is committed.
 - The Board discussed getting other commissions involved and getting feedback from parishioners.
 - Action items for October:
 - Board members are to get feedback from parishioners.
 - Kathy and Shannon with Sheri: contact peer ministers and ask them to get feedback from college students

2. DRE:

- Wisdom & Wine: Sister Clifford will speak in the spring on Theology/Ecology/Creation. This fall's topic will possibly be a Catholic/Muslim dialogue. It was mentioned that serving wine with this topic may not be appropriate; this will have to be checked.
- Whole Parish Catechesis: Minutes from the committee meeting were provided. Planning is going well. Follow-up activities were discussed, feedback will be requested at the parent meeting to find out if this is something they are interested in.
- Catechist Update: All catechist positions are filled and they all attended an in-service.
- Enrollment: There are several new families
- There is an increase in home schooling families – several from last year's Sunday evening class. They want to stay involved in the YM activities.

3. YM:

- CLI – 4 girls and Vanessa attended – It was a good experience and the girls will recommend it to others.
- Rapid Relief Teen Workcamp – Vanessa and 2 girls attended the workcamp, they worked at a church and St. Vincent DePaul
- 1st semester activities: a list of planned activities was provided. Each Board member is asked to pick an activity that they could attend. Share your choice at the October meeting.

Feedback:

- Kathy will communicate to parents with students only in Pre-School/Kindergarten. They may stay in the classrooms until 11:30 on Sunday mornings.
- Shannon will help with dismissal on the first Sunday of class.
- Possibly incorporate VBS songs into class each week.
- Is it possible to have Wed classes earlier? – This won't work for families that live out of town and in other school districts. It would also be difficult to get catechists.

Unfinished Business:

- Goals – tabled to next month.
- Appointment of new Board members. This will occur at the next meeting.

New Business:

- No new business

The meeting concluded with prayer and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7 p.m.