

Education Commission Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2010

In Attendance: Jane Carroll (Staff Member), Katie Gebhard (Staff Member), Pat Bredenkamp (Staff Member), Mary Zielinski, Mary Powell, Sherry Campeau, Lisa Zastoupil

Absent: Tom Nathe

Electronic handouts distributed prior to the meeting: February 2010 Principal's Report

1. Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm
2. January meeting minutes approved via email.
3. Parish mission follow-up.
Katie and several other commission members have reported hearing very positive feedback about the parish mission. Approximately 600-700 people participated in the mission each day and the gift shop had sold over 100 CD's of the mission's presentations - a huge success! The goal is to hold a parish mission every 2-3 years in the future.
4. Role of the Education Commission.
The Parish Council is looking at re-structuring the commissions. Discussion took place about the value in having an Education Commission. One of the major benefits discussed was having an avenue for communicating, planning, and cooperating between the school and faith formation.
5. Upcoming changes in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

Jane reported that the Anoka-Hennepin School District will be closing 8 schools. Implications for Epiphany (in particular busing issues) are still being discussed with the District. It appears at this time that school start times will not be changing.
6. Ideas for the next Education Commission meeting include brainstorming visionary projects for the commission to work on. One example discussed was the changes in demographics within the community (increased poverty) and how we feel it is important to communicate to others such as Finance and/or Stewardship.
7. Education Commission Action Plan (begin to review and update) - Tabled until April.
8. Reports: Advisory Committee reports were tabled until April.

Principal's report is attached at the end of these minutes
Faith Formation report was handed out at the meeting.

9. Adjournment with Prayer at 8:25 pm

Next meeting: April 13, 2010

(Submitted by Lisa Zastoupil

Principal's Report to the Education Commission
March 9, 2010

Registration for 2010-11. Registration materials for the upcoming school year were sent home in communication envelopes two weeks ago. There is a \$100.00 increase in the tuition of the first and second child, with lesser amounts for multiples. The registration timeline is as follows:

March 12	Registrations received by Friday, March 12 th will be eligible for a drawing of five \$1000.00 tuition grants.
March 31 Applications are	Applications for additional financial assistance are due.
May	not processed without a paid family registration. Financial aid is communicated.
August 15 eligible to	Any current family that recruits a new family to the school is Receive a \$300.00 tuition credit. Simply contact icarroll@epiphanymn.org to verify your recruitment work.

Literacy Night. To celebrate reading and writing at Epiphany, we are hosting our first "Literacy Night" on Thursday, April 22. From 4:00-6:00 PM visit the poetry café, book exchange, read student writing, and hear book talks. Enjoy refreshments, register for prizes, and much more! Thanks to JoAnn Klinger, Sue Nichols, and Connie Daniels for coordinating this project.

To kick off this special event, Kevin Strauss, author and storyteller, will join us on Wednesday, April 21, for a presentation of "Northwood Animals", K-3, 12:15 PM and "American Tales", 4-8, 1:20 PM.

Marketing Initiatives. A few marketing activities since we last met include:

- A school tour was held on Tuesday morning for perspective families. Another will be held on March 18, 5:30 PM. Both events were advertized in the Parish Bulletin.
- The Environment Sub-committee met last week and further refined first impression recommendations. I'll give a few more details at the meeting.
- STAR nominations continue to be posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. On May 26, from two to six nominees will be honored after the 8:00 AM Mass.
- Art work of four Epiphany students: "The Haitian Piece" by Becca Makens; "Japanese Scroll" by Mailee Kjellberg; "Pop Art" by Cydney Wajda; and "Picasso Portrait" by Hanna Gams will be exhibited at the National Catholic Education Association Convention in Minneapolis on April 6-8.
- Art students from various grades made over 100 "Welcome" greeting cards for conventioners.

“Coffee with the Principal” On February 25, I hosted one of four gatherings for parents to visit informally about the school, activities, and topics of interest in learning and parenting. It’s been a great opportunity to hear commendations and parent perspectives. On April 27, I’ll be hosting a Bag Lunch gathering at noon.

Junior High Electives Offered. The second round of electives for junior high students is currently being offered. An elective is an opportunity to explore interests, learn something new, and build relationships with peers and teachers. Electives mix up learning and add enrichment to the regular curriculum. Each class will meet four times for one hour.

Professional Development. It’s been a busy month of professional activities:

1. On Thursday, February 18, eight teachers participated in advanced training in use of our six interactive boards.
2. Dana Elfering and Kate Gambino, kindergarten teachers, have both applied for fully funded graduate work in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Sponsored by the University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese, this offering supports teaching an increased number of special need students in Catholic schools.
3. The entire faculty participated in the second of three trainings with Charon Teirney, Language Arts Specialist from the State of MN, on the 6 Traits of Writing.

Spring Break. The school’s break calendar is somewhat different than the District calendar because Archbishop Neinstadt has requested that school faculties participate in the National Catholic Education Association Convention. Because of this, students are on break from Wednesday, March 31 through Thursday, April 8. Teachers will be at the convention on April 6-8. Classes resume for students on Friday, April 9th.

Lenten Observance---Change your heart! We continue to observe the Lenten season through prayer and action using the Parish Mission theme. Each week has a unique focus that ties to the overall theme. Thanks to the guidance staff for coordinating rich options for observing this special time.

One of the school’s Lenten traditions is a seventh grade presentation of the Living Stations. Join us on Tuesday, March 30, 1:00 PM.

March Faith Formation Education Commission Report

Our parish mission on February 21-23 was a great success. About 600 – 700 persons attended each day. Sunday was a ‘family night’ so there were activities for children in grades K – high school. 100 CDs of the presentations have been sold. All faith formation staff, a steering committee and various staff and commissions besides numerous parish volunteers were involved in planning and executing the mission. Fr. Zehren would like us to plan one every 2-3 years.

Staff are deeply involved in sacramental preparation, budgeting, planning Vacation Bible School, calendaring for next year and evaluating curriculum besides their regular sessions. Our teens have an upcoming ‘30 Hour Fast’ on March 20-21 during which they will be giving service both here and in the local community. All programs have completed the sessions for The Protection of Children and Youth Initiative on child safety.

We have 2 adults and 5 children who will be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. We also have 7 adults who are changing traditions (Confirmation, Eucharist) and one younger child who will be baptized.

The archdiocese is hosting the National Catholic Education Association Conference right after Easter. Our staff will be attending numerous workshops and previewing resources. They will also have regular sessions.

As we approach a Spring Registration, the following changes will be implemented:

1. Tuition will be raised \$5 to \$80 per child with a family cap of \$240 if they are registered by June 30. A \$20 late fee per child will be added for registrations after June 30. Home School tuition will be \$50. (Tenth graders who attend a Catholic High School are not charged for Confirmation.)
2. Vacation Bible School will cost \$35 (up from \$30) this June. Since this is not a ‘regular program’, there is no family cap.
3. Elementary sessions will only be offered on Wednesday nights at either 5:00 – 6:15 or 6:45 – 8:00. We are eliminating the Tuesday night session due to repeated years of lower enrollments. Those families have been notified.
4. High School teens will meet on either Sunday night at 7:00 or Wednesday nights at 6:45. We are eliminating the 5:00 Wednesday session due to lower enrollment and teens consistently coming late due to school activities, work, etc.