

**St. Thomas More Catholic School Commission
February 2019 General Meeting Minutes**

Date, Time, and Location: Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge

Meeting called to order by President Bob Brown at 7:04 P.M.

Attendance: President Bob Brown, Vice-President Kevin Foley, Secretary Pam Michel, Treasurer Mary Aydt, Frank Celarek, Leni Pedres, Michael Mesina, Humberto Perez, Principal Sonja Keane, and Father Richard Rosinski

Absent: No members

There were 10 members in attendance; a quorum was reached. No guests in attendance.

Prayer: Prepared by Leni Pedres - School Commission recited together.

Welcome: President Bob Brown

Approval of Minutes: Humberto Perez motioned to approve and Frank Celarek seconded the motion to approve the January 10, 2019 STM School Commission Minutes.

Pastor's Report: Given by Father Richard Rosinski

- This is Ordinary Time in the Church Year which is after Christmas and before Lent.
- St. Thomas More Church will be hosting two Periods of Enlightenment.
 - 1) Day of Reflection - Immaculee Ilibagiza, an author of "Left to Tell," and a survivor of genocide, will give talks on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1.
 - 2) The parish will host a 3 day mission at the end of Lent.

Principal's Report: Given by Principal Sonja Keane

- The Student Council sponsored sock hop was cancelled on Fri., Jan. 18, 2019, because of bad weather. It will be rescheduled in the spring.
- The Student Council sponsored Donuts with Dad which was held on Fri., Jan. 25, 2019. It was a grand success. Suggestions from the School Commission were to offer coffee and have buckets or containers at each table for donations. Also suggested would be to have a sign on the container or near it to specify what the donations would be used for.
- Members of the School Commission spoke at a specified Mass and other School Commission members stood at a table in the Gathering Space to answer questions during the weekend of Jan. 19 & 20, 2019. The purpose of being in attendance at these Masses was to make the congregation aware of our school and why we think it is a viable place of education for our children.
- Open House was held right after the noon Mass on Sun., Jan. 27, 2019. The Mass opened up Catholic Schools Week which ran from Sun., Jan. 27 - Sat., Feb. 2, 2019.

Open House ran from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. and was a grand success. Open House was extended 1 more hour from last year. A 2 1/2 minute video, made by Kristie Alvey, was run continuously in the gym for the visitors. The video is available on the school's Facebook page. Some parents brought their children to meet and talk with their next year's teacher.

- Catholic Schools Week ran for two weeks because three days were cancelled during the original Catholic Schools Week due to sub zero weather and snow. Activities that were planned for the original Catholic Schools Week were done during the second week.
- Valentine grams were sold to raise funds for the Student Council.
- There will be an afternoon Teacher In-service on Fri., Feb. 15, at St. Joseph's with Deacon Art Miller as the speaker.
- The PTO Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sun., Feb. 17, 2019, in the school gym from 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Seventh and eighth grade's History and Science Fair projects will be on display for visitors to view during the pancake breakfast.
- McTeacher Night will be held at the Larkin Ave. McDonald's on Thurs., Feb. 21, 2019. The STM school teachers will be serving from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. The school will receive 100% of the sale of apple pies from that evening.
- Seventh and eighth grade students will be attending "Here I Am Lord" on Fri., Feb. 22, 2019 at St. Patrick's School in St. Charles, IL. On the same day, the fifth and sixth grade students will be on a field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago, IL.
- The Knights of Columbus will sponsor The Chili for Charity Cook-Off event on Sat., Feb. 23, 2019 in our school gym from 3:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Proceeds of the event will benefit all Elgin Catholic Schools, the Elgin Soup Kitchen, and Elgin area youth sports.

Old Business:

- Vice-President Kevin Foley has not heard from the Judson professor, who was to possibly help us with a project to increase our enrollment. Students, from a class that is only offered in the spring, would possibly help us. Mr. Foley will follow up with the opportunity for next spring's semester class to help us. Humberto Perez has not heard from the ECC professor of graphic design. Mr. Perez, also, will follow up with this professor to offer the opportunity, in the future, to partner with us on this project.

New Business:

- The seventh and eighth grade History and Science Fair's projects will be judged on Fri., Feb. 15, 2019 from 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. in the school gym. During the morning of Feb. 15th, the school students will be walking through the gym looking at the various projects, listening to the projects' presenters, and asking questions.
- A discussion was held on the various marketing ideas for enrollment. The School Commission talked about the importance of using yard signs, new posters, and the video that was shown during Open House.

- Mrs. Keane will provide a survey for school parents to see if there is a need for starting a Before Care Program. This program would be provided before school starts (possibly 6:30 A.M. - 7:30 A.M.) for parents to drop off their children before they start their jobs. Research will be done on how the program is run in other schools.
- Principal Sonja Keane, Treasurer Mary Aydt, and Secretary Pam Michel presented the proposed school budgets for the 2019-2020 school year to the School Commission members to review. The three School Commission members will present the proposed 2019-2020 school budgets to the St. Thomas More Parish Finance Council on Thurs., Feb. 28, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Chelsea Room.

Topics for Next Meeting:

- Discussion of E-Learning days and Before Care Program

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the St. Thomas More School Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M. A closing prayer was led by Father Richard Rosinski.

The next meeting of the St. Thomas More School Commission will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted,

Pam Michel
Secretary
St. Thomas More School Commission

Treasurer Mary Aydt moved and Vice-President Kevin Foley seconded the motion to approve the February 7, 2019 STM School Commission Minutes.