

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

Date, Time, and Location: Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge

Meeting called to order by President Bob Brown

Attendance: President Bob Brown, Secretary Ann Richardson, Michael Mesina, Humberto Perez, Principal Sonja Keane, and Father Browning

Absent: Mary Aydt, Kevin Foley

Prayer: Father Browning led us in prayer.

Welcome: President Bob Brown

Approval of Minutes: Michael Messina motioned to approve and Humberto Perez seconded the motion to approve the June 6, 2019 STM School Commission Minutes.

Pastor's Report: Given by Father Browning.

- Fr. Browning spoke about teaching us to become disciples and help others. He wanted us to encounter the Lord in vibrant ways, and then take the next step toward the Lord. He mentioned that our culture is not conducive to faith. He hopes that people will be comfortable in asking questions. Fr. Browning was pleased with the fact that there were over 200 people that came to the teaching series that was offered over 2 different days and times. Fr. Browning mentioned Flocknote as a communication with the St. Thomas More Parish. Bishop Malloy will be at Confirmation to be held October 12, 2019.
- The School roof replacement has been completed. There are still construction items to resolve but it is hoped that those things will be taken care of soon.

Principal's Report: Given by Principal Sonja Keane

- School has begun with a great start. The school and backpack blessings were very well received. Many students still have the tags on their backpacks from the blessing.
- STM cross country has been going very well with hopes to continue it next year.
- McAlister's Deli no-cook night was successful. Portillo's for Good will be held October 23rd.
- A Dress Down Day was held for Hurricane Dorian victims. The students raised \$325 for the victims.
- IOWA testing has been completed.
- Grandparent's Day was a huge success. Approximately 180 grandparents came to school to share part of their day with students. Next year might include a different way to RSVP attendance.

- Constitution Week was held the end of September. Senator Castro and Representative Moeller came to St. Thomas More School to discuss the Illinois Constitution.
- Recent events: Fall pictures; Pet blessing in honor of the feast day of St. Francis; Fall Book Fair
- Each family was given a Box of Joy which will be collected at the end of October. These boxes will be blessed and sent to children in the Dominican Republic, Haiti or Guatemala for Christmas presents.
- October 11th is a no school day for students. Teachers will be at an Institute Day held at Boylan High School.
- St. Thomas More will have a Walkathon on October 18th.
- Fifth grade will have a retreat on October 21st.
- Eighth grade will be visiting St. Edward High School on October 25th.
- Mrs. Skiba will be out on maternity leave with Mrs. Gaston being her long term substitute.

Old Business:

- Judson University has accepted St. Thomas More as one of three companies for their student marketing project. Each project has 3 students working on it. The students will give us guidance ideas for marketing with the goal to maintain/increase our enrollment. The project will be completed around December 3rd. Mrs. Keane has given Judson students a tour of the STM school building. The Judson students are hoping to have focus groups of students/parents/RE students to interview. They have also viewed the school's video and have asked what has been done previously to market STM.
- Guardian Angel Fund:
The Guardian Angel Fund is being started as a way to help those that want to attend St. Thomas More School and need help with the financial burden. Mrs. Pomella from the Church Office is assisting with the Angel fund. She is setting aside money provided from the Diocese, or endowments for this fund. She will add it to the WeShare site. There was a discussion of ways to aid this fund. Suggestions included: Fr. Browning introducing this fund on a Sunday at Church (as it was recently the feast of Guardian Angels), envelopes in the Church weekly collection envelope box, reverse collection, Christmas giving tree, and church bulletin notices.

New Business:

- The Commission was asked to look over the Mission/Vision/Philosophy of St. Thomas More School to see if it currently reflects our mission.

Topics for Next Meeting:

- The School Mission/Vision/Philosophy

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the St. Thomas More School Commission, the meeting was adjourned. A closing prayer was led by Father Browning.

The next meeting of the St. Thomas More School Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 5th at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted,
Ann Richardson
Secretary
St. Thomas More School Commission