

**St. Thomas More Catholic School Commission  
December 2018 General Meeting Minutes**

**Date, Time, and Location:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 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, Mary Aydt, Michael Mesina, Leni Pedres, Humberto Perez, Principal Sonja Keane, and Father Richard Rosinski.

**Absent:** Frank Celarek

There were 9 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:** Leni Pedres motioned to approve and Michael Mesina seconded the motion to approve the November 13, 2018 School Commission Minutes.

**Pastor's Report:** Given by Father Richard Rosinski

- Second graders were preparing for their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. The children took a tour of the Reconciliation room with Father Rosinski and asked him questions. The second graders will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for their first time on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The students from 3rd - 8th grades will participate in the School's Reconciliation on Monday morning, December 10, 2018.
- There will be a couple of priests, along with Father Rosinski, giving Reconciliation for extended hours (morning, afternoon, and evening) on Wednesday, December 19 and Saturday, December 22 in preparation for Christmas. The Simbang Gabi, Filipino Celebration, will be Thursday, December 20.
- Advent means "to wait." Allow ourselves down time during this season. Joyful hope is wished for all of us.
- A parish card is being mailed to all parishioners with times and events for the Christmas season.
- Most Rev. Arthur J. O'Neill, Bishop of Rockford Diocese from 1968-1994, was an advocate for education and the Editor in Chief of the Observer. He was the first bishop who is a native of our diocese. He was from East Dubuque, IL. The Bishop O'Neill Award is given to a family in the diocese each year that personifies outreach to others and shows the joy of evangelization. Each year, one school from a deanery, chooses the family to receive the Bishop O'Neill Award in Rockford. This year was our turn and the Michael Mesina family was chosen for this award. The family will be preparing to answer questions about Most Rev. John J. Boylan, the third bishop of Rockford. The Mesina family will go to Rockford on Thurs., December 13, 2018 to receive this award.

**Principal's Report:** Given by Principal Sonja Keane

- The STM Fall Fest was held on Saturday, November 17, 2018 in the school gym. There was a lower turn out than the previous year. The planning committee is looking for new ideas to revamp the fest to bring in more people next year.
- Preschool - 8th graders ate together in the school gym on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 for our First Annual All School Thanksgiving Feast. Kindergarten and 1st graders wore their Pilgrim and Native American outfits to the lunch. Boston Market cooked the turkey and made up the plates. Families donated to this lunch. Father Rosinski gave a blessing before eating lunch. Games were provided in Roberts Hall after the lunch for Kindergarten and 1st grade.
- Breakfast with Santa will be on Sunday, December 16, 2018 from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon in the school gym. The 8th graders work the Santa Breakfast and proceeds go toward their 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.
- On Tuesday, December 18, 2018, Mrs. Tandy, the school's music teacher, will direct the All School Christmas concert at 6:30 P.M. in the church.
- Nine outer doors of the school have black boxes with red lights that read FOBs. If a person wants to use a FOB, they must fill out an application. The issued FOB tells Mrs. Keane who and where a FOB was used. If there is an immediate lockdown, all outer doors will lock and not allow anyone to enter.

**Old Business:**

- Vice-President Kevin Foley had no updates on the School Commission's mobile app.

**New Business:**

- The School Commission discussed general marketing ideas to help increase enrollment for our school. Possible ideas for marketing were discussed to implement during Catholic Schools Week from January 27 - February 2, 2019. Humberto Perez will be speaking to a staff person from Elgin Community College and Vice-President Kevin Foley will speak to a staff person from Judson University in reference to marketing strategies and how to implement those strategies to increase our school enrollment.

**Topics for Next Meeting:**

- Further discussion on marketing strategies to increase our school enrollment.
- Continue going over the Safety procedures for STM School.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to come before the St. Thomas More School Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted:

Pam Michel  
Secretary  
St. Thomas More School Commission

Humberto Perez moved and Mary Aydt seconded the motion to approve the December 4, 2018 STM School Commission Minutes.