

Prince of Peace Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 15, 2009
Meeting held in the Fellowship Hall at Prince of Peace Parish

Council Members Present: Lee Thibaudeau, Keith LaMal, Francis VanRite, Jeanne Moore, Sharon Melotte, Gary VanGheem, Deb Bos, and Wendy Allen.

Council Members Not Present: Father Ron, Colleen Hock, and Kathy Joas

Lee Thibaudeau opened the meeting with a prayer.
The minutes from the September meeting were accepted and approved

LIASON COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee (Gary VanGheem)

The Finance Committee will be having their meeting on Thursday, October 22nd. Gary VanGheem will ask them to coordinate their meeting so they meet on the same day as the Parish Council.

Education Committee (Jeanne Moore)

The school has a focus on the H1N1 virus. They will be providing instruction on hand washing.

Brochures for the school are in the final draft stages. It was also stated that they are looking at dates where the school children can participate in the weekend masses.

There were 20 more families that signed up for CFF this year compared to last year. The CFF program received a grant that will be used for adult education.

Jeanne also reported that the Board of Education had a meeting with past and present school families to discuss things that the school does well and things the school can improve on. During this meeting they worked through the SWOT process looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. One of the strengths identified is the location of the school which is in a growing part of the city. The group felt an opportunity exists in increasing marketing efforts. Among the threats identified were the economy and the fact that people are so busy that they don't make time for church. Another threat that was identified was that people are leery of the GRACE system, meaning they are fearful of the unknown.

Catholic Schools Alliance (Lee Thibaudeau)

The Board of Trustees met at Prince of Peace School for their last meeting. They will be submitting the 2010 school year budget the 1st week of November. On July 1, 2010 the principles will become employees of GRACE and then on July 1, 2011 the teachers will become employees of GRACE. GRACE met with the principles and a number of issues were raised. It was stated that GRACE needs to do a better job of communication. They are working on a process to get the Principles under the GRACE system. They also need to start working on the employment process for the teachers. GRACE had a parent listening session and the biggest concern was how they were going to manage fund raising. Lee Thibaudeau also stressed that GRACE will not be closing any schools. He also stated that

GRACE thinks very highly of this area and they are looking at what to do with our 6th graders. He also stated that every parish will be contributing to the GRACE system. The next issue that GRACE will be looking into is busing.

OLD BUSINESS

Continue Work on Model for Change

The Spiritual Life and Visioning committees, joined the council for this portion of the meeting as the groups continue to develop an approach to carry out our parish vision: to help people deepen their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It was decided that the first area of consideration would be the Sacraments. Bill Matheson suggested that once a process is established, it could be used as a template. The template could consider the following from the viewpoints of those involved with the sacrament and the community:

1. Invitation—Do we have an effective way of inviting?
2. Preparation—How do we prepare?
3. Celebration—The actual ceremony
4. Follow Up—How are we making sure that those who received the sacrament are encouraged to continue to practice their faith?

While it was felt that the parish does a good job in celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, there may be opportunities for new ideas that can be incorporated into our celebrations.

The meeting was adjourned.

The **next meeting** will be held on **Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Prince of Peace. Anyone with an issue to be brought before the Council should contact the pastor or council chair at least five days prior to the meeting.

This is an abbreviated version of the minutes. The full minutes are available by contacting the parish office.