

St. John the Evangelist Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009

Attendees

Fr. Tom Powers	Norm Boucher	Mimi Eldridge	Mary Gotgart
Sr. Evelyn Rowan	Susan Jablonski	Bob Kelliher	Sally Miller
	Patrick McGearry	John Piccione	Mike Racette
	John Salvati	Joe Tierney	

Opening Prayer and Reflection

“Prayer for an Easter People” was led by Sr. Evelyn.

Old Business

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Eyes and Ears

We reviewed our observations regarding the Easter liturgies. The Vigil was very enriching, especially with the RCIA candidates participating. Fr. Tom was applauded for the 9:00 Mass and butterflies, and the attendees noted that the children received kites as they left church. The Mass was standing room only. Both upper and lower 11:00 Masses were crowded but people were pleased to see Fr. Bob. The music from both choirs was beautiful.

We discussed the status of enrollment at St. John School. The school has been very big part of the Parish and family life here in Wellesley. The school has the Advisory Board to advise the Pastor and Principal on school related issues, including enrollment and finances. The Advisory Board was formed recently in order to achieve reaccreditation. The budget is being made upon a floor enrollment of 125 students – for 2008-2009, enrollment is 149, and the 2009-2010 number is moving up from 125. The diocese is studying all schools and the Bishop from the west region will be studying the cluster - St. John’s, St. Paul’s, Wellesley and St. Joseph’s, Needham. Our students have come in from Weston and Newton. In our region as well as nationally, Catholic schools have declining enrollment. We discussed various steps that could be taken as a Parish including marketing, reminders at our Masses, communication to our CCD classes, etc.

Old Business

John Piccione, Chairperson for the Parish Finance Council, came to report on the parish finances. He advised us that the Grand Annual collection has a deficit while the weekly collection is on budget. The council is looking into ways to control expenses and looking for

sources of additional revenue, such as the possibility of renting the parish center over the Summer of 2009. The Council and the staff are looking at the spending in the Parish, like Arise Program, Appreciation Weekend, etc. The Council expects to send out letter to parishioners telling them why the Grand Annual collection is so important and remind them about the fiscal year end for the parish (June. 30). We need to educate the parishioner about the expense of the up keep of the parish buildings. It was agreed on by the Parish Council that the letter should be concise. We also had a brief discussion of a number of additional topics, such as direct bank or credit card withdrawals for the collections. We discussed whether our mode of collecting (passing the basket) is outdated.

Pastoral Planning Group

Joe and Fr. Tom reported on discussions with Dan Kenslea from the Pastoral Planning Group. Their discussions with Fr. Fitzgerald at St. Paul's went well, but St. Paul's is just beginning to address the matters. A recommendation was passed on to the PPC to consider establishing broader connections between our organizations and ministries and those at St. Paul's. The Newton parishes also need to be considered, as this is our cluster as of now. The PPG also recommends that each organization or ministry should prepare a Mission Statement and Guide Book for their programs to facilitate the transition to the days when more lay people will be involved in Parish operations. We discussed the examples of the integration of various parishes in our neighboring areas, such as Weston-Sudbury, Dorchester, etc.

New Business

The Nomination Committee addressed the process it is using to come up with a slate of PPC officers for 2009-2010, and needs everyone one to submit comments and recommendations by the end of the month.

We deferred a discussion of our comments and feedback from our experiences at the various Masses we attend to the next meeting.

Sister asked us to give her some ideas on the Parish picnic to cut expense.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. We agreed to meet next on May 19th.