

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

Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at 7:30 P.M. in the teachers' lounge

Meeting called to order by President Bob Brown at 7:40 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: Mary Aydt motioned to approve and Vice-President Kevin Foley seconded the motion to approve the September 6, 2018 School Commission Minutes.

Pastor's Report: Given by Father Richard Rosinski

- There is new phone system being installed to connect the St. Thomas More Parish offices, the rectory, and St. Thomas More School. Each facility will be able to call each other by just pushing an extension number.
- The roofing company developed a system that is taking care of the drainage of water in the courtyard. There are cut outs in the sidewalk, by the school building, that are filled with gravel. The drained water from the gutters goes right into the gravel. Sometimes the gravel gets kicked out because students aren't lifting their feet when walking across the sidewalk. There might be a problem with shoveling snow on the sidewalk in the courtyard because of the loose gravel. The final approval and final payment was done for the portion of the roofing project that is over our 1st gr. - 8th gr. classrooms.
- St. Thomas More Church will host an exhibit of relics of the saints on Wed., Oct. 31, 2018. In the Rockford Diocese, there are 12-13 parishes chosen to exhibit these relics. Fr. Carlos Martins is the curator of the relics from the Treasures of the Church. He plans to bring approx. 1,200 relics which will be displayed in our school gym. Fr. Martins will give two presentations to St. Thomas More School on Oct. 31, 2018. The presentations will be given in Roberts Hall to grades K-3 and grades 4 -8. There will be a presentation in St. Thomas More Church for all parishioners at 7:00 P.M. on Oct. 31, 2018. After each presentation, parishioners and school children will be invited to walk through the exhibit and venerate some of their favorite saints. The night before our presentations, on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018, the relics will be at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Cary. The night following our presentations, on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018, the relics will be at St. John Neumann Church in St. Charles.

- His Excellency, The Most Reverend David J. Malloy, Bishop of Rockford, will be administering the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Thomas More Church on Sat., Oct. 13, 2018. There will be 95 individuals receiving Confirmation that day. In December, 2018, there will be a parent preparation because their children will be receiving their First Reconciliation.

Principal's Report: Given by Principal Sonja Keane

- The Iowa Standardized Tests ended the week of Sept. 24th. The students have spent those previous two weeks testing.
- On Fri., Sept. 28, 2018, Senator Cristina Castro, State Senator from the 22nd Senate District of IL came to St. Thomas More School to speak to the 7th and 8th grade students about our National Constitution and the Illinois State Constitution to celebrate National Constitution Week. The students had many questions for Senator Castro. It was an informative and enjoyable meeting.
- Grandparents' Day, Fri., Sept. 28, 2018, went very well. The day started with a School Mass and afterward the grandparents were invited to visit classrooms, had some light refreshments, and ended with a game of Bingo in the gym.
- Dress Down Day will be on Thurs., Oct. 4, 2018, for a dollar or more donation which will go towards hurricane relief efforts. There will be a pet blessing by Fr. Rich after school on Thurs., Oct. 4, 2018 for the feast of St. Francis.
- The school's annual Walk-a-thon will be on Fri., Oct. 12, 2018. Students are currently collecting pledges for their upcoming walk.
- The school's Book Fair will be in Roberts Hall from Tues., Oct. 9 through Fri., Oct. 12, 2018. Julie Tandy, who is in charge of the book fair, announced that the fair will be open mornings that week from 7:00 - 7:30 A.M. and on Thurs., evening, Oct. 11, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. The Online Fair is available to Sat., Oct. 13, 2018.
- C.H.A.R.M. (Catholic Horizontal Articulation Response Meeting) Teachers from the 7 schools in our Deanery have started to meet once a month. A different grade level meets each month to discuss, collaborate, articulate about curriculum, classroom ideas that work or flop, success stories, and to make connections. In Sept., the Preschool and Kindergarten teachers met together. In October, the First Grade teachers will meet. The meetings are held at different schools during the last 1.5 hours of a school day. On Teacher Institute Day, Fri., Oct. 5, 2018, all the teachers in the Elgin Deanery will be meeting as grade levels at St. Patrick School in St. Charles.
- Mrs. Harris, our 6th gr. teacher, has started a Math Club which meets every Wednesday morning before school. Currently, there are 22 who have signed up from 6th - 8th gr. and they can compete. Mrs. Craig, our 8th gr. teacher, is starting a Yearbook Club with just 8th graders working as events happen throughout the school year. Cheerleading had its first practice on Wed., Oct. 3, 2018. It is open to girls and boys from grades 2-8. Presently, there are only girl cheerleaders who will cheer at the boys' basketball games.

- ALICE - It is a program that trains schools with Plans A, B, and C if an active shooter is inside or outside on campus. The Elgin Police Department is offering free training sessions from 9 A.M. - 12:00 noon or 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. Principal Keane requested members of the School Commission to attend one of these sessions as we look over our Emergency and Crisis Response Plan for St. Thomas More School.

Old Business:

- Vice-President Kevin Foley spoke about how to link our approved School Commission Minutes and the minutes that aren't approved on our Team App. Secretary Pam Michel suggested that the approved School Commission Minutes go on the School Commission Web Page that is one of the tabs on the Team App. The minutes that haven't been approved will go under the tab of Documents. Once those minutes are approved, they will move to the School Commission Web Page.
- Vice-President Kevin Foley reported that he has a call into Karen, who is our contact at Dist. 300. He is waiting to give Karen Principal Keane's school email so that Karen can forward new sessions that are available for our school parents to attend. The next session is on Social Network Safety for Kids. Mrs. Keane said she could also put this information on School Speak.

New Business:

- The St. Thomas More School Commission will be reading, discussing, updating, and correcting items from the School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan. Then the St. Thomas More School Safety Committee will receive the plan, discuss it, and finalize the plan.

Topics for Next Meeting:

- Continue going over the Safety procedures for the school

Adjournment: With no further business to come before the St. Thomas More Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 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, November 8, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the teachers' lounge.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted:
Pam Michel
St. Thomas More School Commission Secretary

Leni Pedres moved and Frank Celarek seconded the motion to approve the October 3, 2018 STM School Commission Minutes.