

DRAFT MINUTES – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Saint Ambrose of Woodbury

Education Advisory Council

August 2, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Members: Bill Brino, Joan Eggert, Carol Seifert,
Mike Henning, Nicki McGurran, Mark Seamon
Staff: Fr. Tom Walker, Roxie Weisbeck, Anne Huber, Matt Metz

1. **Call to Order:** Carol Seifert called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Joan Eggert offered the opening prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Joan Eggert motioned to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2007 meeting as written. Mike Henning seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
4. **Parish Reports:**
 - A. **Parish:** Fr. Tom Walker reported that the orientation session for new and existing members went well. The members watched a very helpful video of a presentation by Jim Lundholm-Eades, from the Archdiocese, that addressed the role of councils within the parish. Fr. Tom distributed a handed out with his reflections on the EAC. Fr. Tom said that Fr. Brian Lynch will begin attending all of the various council meetings to learn how the different councils interact with the pastor and work towards the mission of the Church. Fr. Brian will be changing his day off so that he will be able to attend those meetings.
 - B. **Faith Formation:** Roxie Weisbeck gave an overview of her report and noted that it has been a very busy summer with all of our summer programs. All of them went very well. Many positive comments were received about the programs and our young people in them. Roxie highlighted some of the adult enrichment opportunities that will be coming up this year. Roxie handed out the July and August Sr. High newsletters. Roxie asked the council to encourage anyone they knew who did not have their FF registration forms in to please get them turned in ASAP. Roxie noted that the sacrament process begins the second week of September and regular FF classes begin the first week of October. The Open House/Kick Off is Sunday, September 30th for all FF families.
 - C. **ECEC:** Anne Huber gave an overview of her report. Anne reported that it has been a very busy summer even though the numbers are lower. Anne said that she is currently working on filling two staff positions for the fall. She said that the staff is looking forward to their scheduled workshop days when they all come together for training. One day will be spent watching a video on “Fish Philosophy” and developing skills based on this philosophy. Anne said that the response from parents on the new security door has been very positive.
 - D. **School:** Matt Metz gave an overview of his report. Matt reported that the summer school program was very successful. The program more than doubled in size from last year. Matt highlighted the staffing changes for this next year. New teacher orientation is on August 24th and the entire teaching staff is back on August 27th for an in-service. Matt said that enrollment for this year is at 589 students. Matt reported that he and four teachers spent several days at a conference on Differentiated Instruction (DI). Matt said that he was pleased to find out that SAW School is ahead in its understanding and implementation of DI strategies. He said that the DI committee decided to focus on two key areas:

1. Pre-assessment: Evaluating each student's interest, learning style or skill level.

2. Flexible Grouping: Grouping students with similar skills together and setting goals based on their level of interest, learning style or understanding. The challenge is to have one group work independently while the teacher is working with another group. Fr. Tom noted at this time, that beginning in the fall, the school mass time will change. The school mass will now be on Tuesday's at 1:30PM.

5. Decision Items: None

6. Discussion Items:

A. Policy 5910 Student Dress Code – The council agreed that the policy was acceptable but said they were open to comments and suggestions from parents. Matt Metz said that he would put a note in the September Home and School Newsletter addressing that.

B. Policy 6630 Field Trips – No Change

C. Policy 6710 Fire Safety/Drills – It was suggested that the wording of the last sentence be changed to read: In addition to students and teachers all personnel in the school shall participate in these drills. Matt also noted that the policy should included wording for the required lock downs. Matt will make the changes and present it at the next meeting.

D. Policy 6740 Natural Disaster Plan/Safety – No Change

E. Policy 6760 Inclement Weather – No Change

7. Open Forum:

8. Closing Prayer: Mike Henning offered the closing prayer.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 7:00PM. No meeting scheduled for September.