

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Church Meeting Room, 6:00 PM
Thursday, August 11, 2016

Call to Order

Attendance:

School Council: Principal Kristen Girten, Mark Davis, Chris Newkirk, Brandee Schnarr, Beth Keck, Sue Kroupa, Sara Brown, Sara Rogier, Dan Deeg, Brian Kessler, Greg Rawski, and Joanie Pohl. Father Zach was absent.

New member Greg Rawski was welcomed; introductions were made and everyone said a little bit about themselves.

Our Mission Statement was read aloud by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting on July 21, 2016, were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President's Report: President Sue Kroupa distributed a confidentiality agreement for every member to read, sign and return to her.

Pastor's Report: No report in Father Zach's absence. He had a dinner meeting with the Bishop to attend.

Principal's Report: Kristen reported a smooth start to the first few days of school this week, except that we already had a couple fire drills. They were false alarms, and it was determined that the alarm in Mrs. Hirsch's room needed servicing. The company came and fixed the problem very quickly. Enrollment numbers are still changing; we are currently at 350 students in K-8 and 43 students in preschool. This includes 18 new families and 24 new students in K-8. There are 14 SGO students, and 92 Choice Scholarship (voucher) students.

Mrs. Mackenzie Stolz will be teaching 7 & 8th Spanish twice a week on Tuesday and Friday. She will also be teaching Spanish at Holy Rosary and St. Wendel.

GS teachers attended a Back to School Gathering at Holy Redeemer on 8/3. Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler was the speaker. The faculty participated in a staff retreat on 8/4; Mary Kaye Falcony led the retreat.

The 5th graders had iPad "boot camp" today. The Kindergarten and New Families Coffee was not very well attended this year. We will possibly try a different date in the future. Parent Orientation for grades 6-8 was held last night, 8/10, and it was well attended. Parent Orientation for grades 1-5 will be held 8/18.

Additional information can be found in Kristen's complete written principal's report on file with these minutes.

Preschool Report: Brandee reported that school is off to a great start. August 9th was Little Rams Open House and Parent Orientation. We have 1 spot to be filled in the Pre-K class. Since our aftercare program has more children enrolled than we have ever had, we have posted an available job position on the Diocese website for a part-time staff member to help in the aftercare program. The new outdoor musical equipment (winged chimes and drums) that was generously donated by the Fox family is being enjoyed by the children. Brandee attended a workshop last Saturday in Bloomington on Nature Explore outdoor classrooms to gain more ideas for incorporating learning in our outdoor space.

Legislative Liaison: Brandee reported there are no items needing support or action at the moment. However, there have been many articles written and posted recently about choice scholarships and the Indiana voucher program. There are many people who oppose this program, and the information they cite is not always accurate. There have been many helpful documents recently shared on the Indiana Non Public Education Association website. We need to continue to support political candidates and representatives who believe in this program and advocate for it.

Athletic Committee Report: Dan Deeg reported there has not been a recent meeting, but he talked to Mark Schuler last night and it is being re-evaluated as to who is/will be on the Athletic Committee.

Discussion was held regarding the rental fee for the GS gym and the St. Theresa gym. The price was recently increased to \$50 for a 1-5 hour period of time, which seems rather high for a 1-hour practice, for instance. Also, questions arose regarding what type of liability insurance we have or is necessary for parishioners vs. non-parishioners. Someone will talk to Father Zach regarding these issues.

PTO Report: Beth Keck reported the Paragon promotion will be 9/14 thru 9/30, with delivery in November. They will have the mum sale again; information will go out in the Thursday folder next week. Fall Carnival will be 9/17 in conjunction with Grandparents Day and the Book Fair. The first PTO meeting of the school year will be 9/8 at 6pm.

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier stated they had no official meeting, so she has no report.

Tech Team Report: Sue Kroupa reported that the Tech Team has not had their August meeting yet, so she has nothing new to report.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

7 a) Review and Update of School Council By-Laws. Sue suggested that we maybe need to further explain the term “Parish Wide Discernment Process” to include having interested possible new members write a short narrative as to why they would like to serve on the School Council and also to ensure that we find the proper skill set needed at the time on the Council. A few other additions/changes were discussed, including noting that a minimum of 5 voting Council members and either the Pastor or the Principal must be present to conduct a meeting, and also that the meetings shall be the second Thursday of each month if possible. Sue will make the changes and email the By-Laws out at least 2 weeks prior to the next meeting date to Council members for review.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8 a) Goals for 2016-2017. Regarding goals, Kristen noted that we should continue to strive to be the great, awesome school that we are. Other things to keep in mind are the merge between Good Shepherd and St. Theresa, and to “never take our eyes off enrollment”. As to specific goals, the Principal is required to have specific, detailed goals, and that the School Council’s goals should support the Principal’s goals.

8 b) Meeting dates/times. Discussion was held regarding scheduling of School Council meeting dates for the remainder of the school year. The following was decided:

No meeting in September. The 9/27/16 School Council Workshop will be considered the September meeting, as encouraged by the Diocese.

10/13/16

11/17/16

12/15/16 December meeting / Christmas get-together

01/12/17

02/09/17

03/09/17

04/20/17

05/11/17

No meeting in June

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Pohl, Secretary