

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, July 20, 2017

Call to Order

Attendance:

School Council: Principal Kristen Girtten, Fr. Zach, Sue Kroupa, Brandee Schnarr, Sara Rogier, Sara Brown, Mark Schuler, Jen Blackburn, Greg Rawski, Fr. Jerry, and Joanie Pohl. Chris Newkirk, Dan Deeg, Brian Kessler, and Mark Davis were absent.

Prayer: Sue Kroupa opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mission Statement: Our Mission Statement was read aloud by all.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting on May 11, 2017, were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Sue passed out Confidentiality Agreements for all to sign and return to her.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Zach reported that his intent is to spend Thursdays at MHS. Fr. Jerry will be taking on the role of Youth Ministry as part of his duties. A letter was sent to MHS families regarding what actions are necessary for GS to pay their students' assessment fee to Memorial. Fr. Zach wants to keep working on getting families to Mass regularly and having them be active parishioners, including having their photos taken for the parish pictorial directory, tithing, involvement in activities, attend Sunday Mass regularly and Holy Days. It is hoped that a similar letter will be sent to GSCS families so they are well aware of the requirements to be able to have GS pay the Memorial assessment fee.

The parish phones have been out of commission for 3 weeks now, but they are getting close to being done. In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to use email instead of the phone to contact parish staff. The parking lot will be completed by the start of school.

Fr. Zach noted that he would like to evaluate whether the cost for GAP can increase beginning this year. It has been \$7.00 for a long time. Kristen will meet with Katie Lappe regarding possibly implementing this yet for this coming school year. Our cost is comparable with other schools (we are somewhere in the middle). Also, GAP staff member Scott will not be returning this year, so there will be one less person to pay. NOTE: Since the School Council meeting, Kristen did talk to Katie Lappe and we are going to raise the cost to \$8.00. Also, Scott will still be working for us for at least the first semester.

Principal's Report: Kristen reported that as of July 12th, we have 322 students in K-8 and 44 in early childhood for the 2017-2018 school year. She is still taking calls and meeting with potential new families/students. On 7/21, she hopes to add 2 more new families (2 new students). Our incoming Kindergarten enrollment is low but that is happening at other schools as well, so it is not just a GS thing. Dana Davis has decided to stay home with her son; she will be substitute teaching for us on occasion. Lauren Klipsch has accepted the 6 Math/K – 3 PE position. She is a graduate of GSCS and is a member of the parish. 100% of our 3rd graders passed IREAD.

Preliminary ISTEP+ results were released to schools and parents on June 16; parents had until July 7 to request a rescore. Final results are expected by July 31. Junior High locker set-up is 8/6 from 11:30-1:00. Registration packets will be available the weekend of July 29 and 30. New teachers iPads have been ordered and will be ready for distribution at the teacher faculty meeting. Sunday 8/6 is Kindergarten Orientation and Preschool Open House. Wednesday 8/9 is parent orientation for Grades 6-8; Thursday 8/17 is parent orientation for Grades 1-5. The Diocesan Signature Event at the Ford Center previously scheduled for Sunday 9/17 has been cancelled.

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

Preschool Report: Brandee reported they will be using the Bloomz educational app this year. It is a free app designed for teachers and classrooms. It is secure and it allows teachers to safely share photos, updates, reach parents through a messaging component, and coordinate events. They are working with Mark Schuler to update the Little Rams tab on the GS website. Our 2017-2018 Handbook has been updated and loaded on the site. She and Mrs. Girten are working on interviewing and hiring for an aftercare position and an additional part-time person to help cover lunch breaks for the preschool staff. It has been decided to wait on implementing FACTS with the Little Rams families. Enrollment is full, with 20 preschool students and 24 pre-k students for the coming school year. Open House will be on Sunday 8/6 from 2-4. Youth Protection training will be offered to all our parents after the parent meeting concludes.

Legislative Liaison: Brandee reported that the Legislative Session ended in April, so there is no new legislation to report on currently. She will try to contact Holly Sullivan and ask her to visit GSCS.

Athletic Committee Report: Mark Schuler distributed copies of the Fall 2017 Athletic Update. GSCS Athletics is doing very well financially right now, with a current balance of \$48,600.00. The Athletic Bingo will be 8/29. Fall Sports participation numbers are as follows: 15 Cross Country runners; 47 Football players; 34 Soccer players; and 35 Volleyball players (for a total of 135 participants). Most practices started on 7/17; League play will start the week of 8/13. There will be no sports on the 4-day Fall Break weekend this year. As for basketball, 3rd-4th grade b'ball will not be at St. Theresa. We will need a new location for this league. It may be at GS this year; Mark is still working on this.

PTO Report: Jen Blackburn is the new PTO representative on the School Council. She reported that their next officers' meeting will be 8/3. On 9/14 the Paragon fundraiser packets will go out. This is the last year of our contract with Paragon. We netted \$18,000 from this fundraiser last year. The first PTO meeting will be Sept. 7th. There will be no Fall Carnival this year, and they are thinking of ideas to replace it.

Tech Team Report: Mark Schuler reported that there are no major updates this summer to the network infrastructure other than connection of the church to the school with fiber. As a Scout Project, Kyle Martin will help with the re-wire of the school. Grades 5-8 will be 1:1 with iPad Mini's. We have approximately 160 iPad devices to manage. His current summer project is a "refresh" of all of the iPad mini's. This will be the 4th year for iPads for this year's 8th grade. The 3-year donor's pledge has now expired and we will need to find other funding soon.

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier reported that the parish's finances ended "in the black" this year, which of course is a good thing.

Our Kindergarten enrollment was discussed. Our class sizes for this coming school year are low: 13 in one class and 14 in the other. Someone will try to find birthrate information/statistics for those pertinent birth years to see if the trend was down. Developing a marketing plan/committee was discussed. Ideas included: Greg Rawski will try to get some better photos for the banners; yard signs stating “this is the home of a proud Good Shepherd Catholic School student” or something similar. Kristen noted that one of her goals is to form a Marketing Committee. Greg Rawski agreed to be the School Council rep for a Marketing Committee. Our School Improvement Plan is due September 15. It was brought up that possibly an endowment could be used to pay for marketing expenses.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

6 a) President and Vice President. Dan Deeg has offered to be the President this school year, and Sara Brown offered to be the Vice-President. Sue agreed to be a co-President this year in an advisory capacity. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the above.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7 a) AdvancED Internal Visit. The date for this has not been scheduled yet. This is a visit that will include 1 person from the Catholic Schools office and 3 other principals in the diocese. Kristen will keep us informed.

7 b) Enrollment 2017-2018. This topic was previously discussed and noted during this meeting. We need to focus on Marketing and we need to “brag” on ourselves because GSCS is such an awesome school and we have a lot of positive things going for us.

7 c) November Council meeting. An alternate date is needed for our November meeting because the Diocesan Spell Bowl is the evening of 11/16. It was discussed and agreed that our November meeting will be on November 30th at 6PM.

7 d) Diocesan School Council Workshop. The Workshop will be Tuesday, 9/19, from 6:30 to 8pm at the Catholic Center. This event will serve as our September meeting. We will discuss at our August meeting who will be able to attend and what sessions they will be signing up for.

7 e) Goals for 2017-2018. This topic was already discussed at various times during this meeting.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM. The next meeting date will be August 10, 2017, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Pohl, Secretary