

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, September 14, 2017

Call to Order

Attendance:

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

Prayer: Father Zach 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 July 20, 2017, were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Since we have a 5:30 PM Mass on Thursday evenings, Sue suggested/invited school council members to attend Mass before coming to our meetings.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Zach reported: This weekend is catechetical Sunday. All teachers will be recognized and there will be a special blessing for all parents as well, as they are the first teachers of their children. Grandparents' Day Mass is tomorrow. CPC paperwork has been mailed to all parishioners. Included in that, parishioners are asked to fill out, sign, and return a questionnaire to help distinguish the difference between just a "Registered" Parish Member and an "Active" Parish Member.

Bills are now coming in to be paid for the parking lot. We have been approved for a \$500K 4-year loan from the diocese, but we hope to pay it off in 2 years. The Brute' award recipients this year will be Jim and Cheri Durchholz, Pam Sauls, and Jim and Karen Bengert.

Principal's Report: Kristen reported: As of 9/7, enrollment is 319 students in K-8 and 44 students in the preschool. There are 17 new families and 18 new students (K-8). We have 8 SGO students, and 82 Choice Scholarship (voucher) students. The staff has completed the first 2 sessions of the required Diocesan Catechist Certification Program. The plan is to complete the remaining 2 sessions in August 2018.

ISTEP+ scores for the 2016-2017 school year were released on 9/6, and once again GSCS performed well. Out of 1,800 schools in Indiana, we were ranked 11th, and 4th in the state out of K-8 schools. This is in the top 1%.

Our cafeteria staff attended a culinary training this summer sponsored by the IN Dept. of Education. This training has prompted some changes in our cafeteria this year. Students are being served fresh fruits and vegetables daily. We are having "Try It" days to get the students to try new foods. "Grab and Go" for 3rd thru 8th grades started this week. It has been a huge success so far.

The Health and Wellness Committee has created goals for our school. Our School Improvement Plan was submitted to the IN Dept. of Education on 9/7. More information regarding those goals and the Improvement Plan can be found in Kristen's complete written principal's report on file with these minutes, as well as other detailed information.

Preschool Report: Brandee reported: We have had a successful start to the school year, and the teachers are doing an outstanding job implementing the new curriculum that we adopted last year. Our teachers are working hard to increase communication with our Little Rams families, including utilizing the Bloomz app.

As part of our upcoming accreditation review, Brandee and Mrs. Girten recently attended both an On My Way Pre-K webinar (hosted by INPEA) and a preschool accreditation meeting hosted by the Diocese office. They have also been working through the AdvancEd early childhood self assessment workbook and collecting evidence for our goal of a visit in or near February.

Upcoming events include the Dept. of Health coming to talk to us about hand washing (which aligns with the first theme in our curriculum), and a local fire truck and firefighters will be visiting in October (which corresponds with the theme of community helpers in our curriculum). Parent/teacher conferences will be held over the same days in October as the K-5 teachers. Also, our families will be participating in the PTO Paragon fundraiser this year.

Legislative Liaison: Brandee stated there is nothing new to report right now because the Legislature is currently out of session. She has invited Holly Sullivan to visit our school; she is waiting to hear back from her.

Athletic Committee Report: Mark Schuler reported: Fall sports are getting ready to wind down; fall sports' pictures will be October 4th; winter sports sign-up forms went out today. 3rd and 4th grade boys' basketball games will be at Good Shepherd. There are 36 teams in the league; he is anticipating 12 games on Saturdays and 6 games on Sundays. Basketball practices can begin on October 10th. ECS has offered their facility for us to use for games/practices. The 7th and 8th boys' league will have their games at St. John Newburgh. Richard Jarboe is heading that team up. Scheduling practice times has been challenging. We may approach Catholic Charities about possibly renting the St. Theresa gym for practices. Financially, the AC is doing well, having come into this school year with \$45K.

Tech Team Report: Mark Schuler reported they had a meeting last night. We have now achieved 1:1 iPad mini's for grades 5-8, plus a floating cart for K-4th. Our goal now is to continue to subsidize this program, because our 3-year donor's pledge has now expired. It is anticipated that approximately \$20,000 will be needed to be raised via soliciting donors, having a fundraising event, or other ideas. It basically will cost \$500 per student; that cost is offset by each student paying an annual \$50.00 fee. They are considering increasing that fee to \$60.00. Some discussion was held regarding whether this year's 8th graders will just keep theirs or will we charge them in some way to keep them. Through Apple, they possibly have entities/companies interested in purchasing such older devices.

PTO Report: Jen Blackburn reported: The first PTO meeting of the year was last week. They have filled all of their committee spots; the Paragon fundraiser started today; the mums will be coming in soon; there are still several families who need to pay their PTO dues. They have nixed the Fall Carnival and need suggestions for something in the Spring instead. Mrs. Fulton has requested that the PTO pay for a 1-year trial for a religious online subscription. They currently have a balance of \$19,000, which includes the mums and PTO dues.

Marketing Report: Greg Rawski reported that they will have their first meeting soon. He plans to reach out to possible/potential committee members.

It was noted that since we are one of the top performing schools in Vanderburgh and Warrick counties, that we should maybe “ramp up” our bragging rights to the public via our marketing.

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier reported there is no new financial information to report. The goal is to have the July and August financials next week.

ITEMS FOR DECISION - None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8 a) New Member to School Council. Chris Newkirk had one more year on his term, but he has resigned his position. The process for discerning a new member was discussed, as well as what “type” of person/specialty is currently needed on the Council (a grant writer? a person who is good at fundraising?). A few people who were suggested as a replacement for Chris include Michael Schaefer and Rachel or Todd Mazzier. Any additional prospects can be suggested to either Kristen Girten or Sue Kroupa. This topic will be discussed again at the October meeting.

8 b) Summer Camp. Mark Schuler reported that Good Shepherd’s Summer Camp just finished its 22nd year. This year we averaged around 110 campers per day, 12 groups per session. We have 28 staff members (including college kids and GS alumni), with an average of 20 working each day. We have a very good, well-respected and successful program. In 22 years, the program has never lost money and any surplus went to the General Fund. Mark met with Kristen and Fr. Zach last week and informed them that he needs to resign his position as Director because of all the other obligations he has, including Cross Country, Technology, his own daughter and family, etc.

Mark has met with MaryAnn Dunbar, Debbie Achilles, and Lexi Lasher (his key staff members) and they have expressed interest in possibly staying on in leadership positions. Mark said the planning for the next summer’s Camp actually starts in November, so a decision needs to be made soon as to whether we will continue the program.

Discussion was held to determine if the program should continue. It was agreed among the council members that yes, we should proceed with continuing the Summer Camp program.

8 c) Diocesan School Council Workshop. Several School Council members agreed to attend this Workshop on 9/19 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Catholic Center, including Kristen, Greg, Brian, Jen, Sara, and Dan.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM. The next meeting date will be October 12, 2017, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Pohl, Secretary