

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, January 11, 2018

Call to Order

Attendance:

School Council: Father Zach, Principal Kristen Girten, Dan Deeg, Mark Davis, Brandee Schnarr, Sara Rogier, Michael Schaefer, and Joanie Pohl. Sue Kroupa, Jen Blackburn, Sara Brown, Brian Kessler, Mark Schuler, Father Jerry, and Greg Rawski 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 November 30, 2017, were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President's Report: No report.

Pastor's Report: Father Zach: The new school semester just started; Lent is coming up soon; he will be leaving for a vacation in three weeks. He feels he is spending more time than anticipated at MHS and hopes the teachers/staff/students at Good Shepherd aren't feeling "neglected" when he is not here.

Principal's Report: Kristen reported: The Diocesan "Come and See" Open House for prospective families will on Feb. 1 from 5-7 pm at all Diocesan schools. The Catholic Schools Office has given each school a goal: ours is to host 15 families.

GSCS will be hosting an AdvancED Internal Review on Tuesday Jan 16. Diocesan administrators will be spending the day with us, including visiting every classroom, auditing of our School Choice voucher files, student interviews, School Council interviews on the evening of 1/15, among other things. (NOTE: In a subsequent email on 1/14, Kristen reported that due to the inclement weather, she and Sally Sternberg, Associate Superintendent, have decided to reschedule our review for a later date, possibly Feb. 19-20).

The Koch Foundation announced that GSCS is one of the recipients of the Culture of Excellence Grant. The grants are to provide an opportunity for parish schools to permanently raise the levels of excellence in the spiritual, academic, social and physical education of their students to prepare them to assume leadership roles in their chosen fields based on Catholic values. GSCS's grant will be for \$45,000 total to be paid over a 3-year period beginning July 2018.

Catholic Schools Weeks will be celebrated Jan 28 thru Feb 3. Activities will include: Our 8th graders will attend Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral on Jan 30, the oldest grade from each diocesan school will be in attendance; students will be participating in a service project for local charities as part of the event; there will be a Family Skate Night on Sunday Jan 28 from 5-7 pm.

The Kindergarten Orientation for the 2018-2019 school year will be Feb 22 at 6pm. All faculty and staff were given a letter of intent on Jan 5, to be returned by Jan 26. Mrs. Maria Watson has been doing a monthly service opportunity for our middle school students. These projects are held outside the school day and have included things like volunteering at a 5K run, serving at River Pointe Health, and helping at

the Tri-State Food Bank. We are very proud of these service projects and Mrs. Girten plans to inform The Message.

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

Preschool Report: Brandee reported: Preview Night was Jan 10. We had 18 families in attendance, which is a small increase from last year. In addition, we have received 4 new applications from parishioners wanting a Pre-K spot and 1 non-parishioner application. She will be following up with all the families who attended with a handwritten note of appreciation. Families are asked to return their application and registration form by the end of the month. They will be taking a field trip to CMOE on Friday Jan 19. Mrs. Girten, Mrs. Elpers, Ms. Anna and Brandee continue to work on AdvancEd pieces for their review on Feb 23.

Former Good Shepherd student Matt Hermann is proposing to do his Eagle Scout project to help the preschool and Pre-K. Ideas include a "place to dig" (possibly a sandbox or something similar) or maybe a place to plant things. Discussion included where we would want to put the project. Matt will need to go before the Parish Council and present his idea with the "blessing" that the School Council is in favor of it. Brandee will contact Matt and determine when he might be ready to present to the Parish Council.

Legislative Liaison: Brandee reported: The Council for Private Education (CAPE) recently sent out an alert regarding Title II-A funding. Congress is currently considering whether to fund or eliminate Title II-A of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESSA), which deals with the professional development of teachers. Currently we receive \$40,000/year (out of \$2 billion total for the state). The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved \$2 billion in funding for Title II-A, but the spending bill passed by the House provides no funding whatsoever for the program. CAPE supports the \$2 billion funding level.

Educators in non-public schools have greatly benefited from Title II-A throughout the program's long history. During the most recent re-authorization, the non-public school community worked very hard to ensure that equitable services for educators in non-public schools would be calculated based on a school district's total allocation of funds under Title II-A. With the provision now in place, it is even more important to our community that adequate levels of funding for the program be maintained.

Brandee will look into whether there is some sort of "click to support" website or app that the general public can use to show support for this funding.

Athletic Committee Report: From the report provided by Mark Schuler: Income is \$16,900+ and expenses are \$11,400+; our Boys 7th & 8th grade varsity basketball team won the St. Bens Holiday Classic; Mike Freeman along with three GS parents will serve as coaches for the GSCS wrestling team. Current roster is 21. Mark is currently working on preparing the 3rd and 4th grade tournament brackets and sending out that information. There is an Assembly scheduled for January 26th at 1:50 in the gym.

Tech Team Report: \$44,000 has been spent this school year and there is \$5,500 left in the budget. It is anticipated that we will receive approximately \$60.00 per device for our students' used iPads.

PTO Report: There will NOT be a PTO meeting next week as originally scheduled; they are working on a newsletter to send out instead. PTO recently purchased the following items: ink, pillows for the library per Lucy Ashley's request; science enhancement program per Mrs. Hart's request; Mrs. VanHoosier's tribute plaque for landscaping; muffins for the Muffins with Mom event; bus transportation for field trips. Income: \$117.68 from the Panera give back; \$550.30 from Box Tops.

Marketing Report: They had a meeting yesterday. We are delivering "Come and See" flyers to 8 preschools. They have 2 flyers: one that includes all diocese schools, and one that is just ours, for the

upcoming Open House on 2/1. Other ideas being discussed include:

1. Looking into doing yard signs that say something like “Proud home of a Good Shepherd Ram.”
2. Mrs. Girten is working on another stand-up banner.
3. A re-push of the GS car stickers.
4. Possibly having a second Open House during the school day (like a Lunch & Learn).

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier reported: There was no December meeting. She reviewed the November 2017 YTD results and most budget variances between budget vs. actual appear to be timing related. Tuition will be discussed later in this meeting.

ITEMS FOR DECISION – None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8 a) AdvancED Internal Review Update. This was discussed earlier in this meeting. See notes under Principal’s Report.

8 b) Proposed Calendar for 2018-2019. Mrs. Girten briefly went over the proposed calendar. The calendar follows all of the east feeder schools. For the most part, it follows Memorial too. We usually have 90 days in each semester. This calendar has 89 days in first semester and 91 days in second semester. Good Friday is scheduled to be in session. We are thinking about trying to keep a somber tone for that day and have “silence” from 12-3 on Good Friday. Kristen will email the calendar out to School Council members and solicit input/approval, since not enough voting members are present at this meeting to approve it.

8 c) Enrollment 2018-2019. Kristen reported that an early projected enrollment number for next school year is 330. We currently have 320 students in K thru 8. She is excited that we are getting lots of inquiry calls and requests for tours, etc. so the 330 projected enrollment number is conservative at this point.

8 d) Tuition 2018-2019. Sara Rogier distributed preliminary tuition increase scenarios, as well as income/expense reports from prior school years. She noted that currently the parish kicks in \$700,000 (roughly 1/3) toward the school costs. A question was asked as to whether the Diocese recommends a “certain percentage” that a parish should kick in towards its school. Kristen will discuss this with either Daryl Hagan or Tim McQuire of the diocese office and report back to the Council. Good Shepherd is near the top as far as tuition costs, but we are definitely near the tuitions of St. Johns Newburgh, Holy Rosary and St. Bens, but we need to keep in mind that some schools tuition may be lower, but their fees may be higher, so we need to make sure we are comparing apples to apples. Currently, none of our classes are at capacity; 4th grade is close to capacity. She discussed estimated school budget increases with the School Council and solicited feedback on tuition recommendations for the next school year. Recommendations will be taken to the Finance Commission on 1/17/18. Final approval for the tuition will come back to School Council at the 2/8/18 meeting for final approval. This will allow tuition to be shared at the Kindergarten event on 2/22/18.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting, which adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM. The next meeting will be February 8, 2018, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Pohl, Secretary