

**Good Shepherd Catholic School Council**  
**Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Attendance:

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

**Prayer:** Kristen 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 September 14, 2017, were approved with the following revisions: "Holli" is the correct spelling of Holli Sullivan's first name. Under Section 8 a), Kristen would like to add that the names of Amy Broshears and Maren Smith were added as possible School Council new members. (Kristen revised the 9/14/17 minutes with those changes and emailed them to everyone on 10/13/17)

**REPORTS:**

**President's Report:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** Fr. Jerry announced that the Good Shepherd mobile smartphone app is up and running and includes both parish and school info. He is looking into possibly doing a Spanish mass, maybe around December 12<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Principal's Report:** Kristen reported: Parent/Teacher conferences will be 10/25-26. New this year we are including preschool and Pre-K conferences with the K-8 and we asked preschool thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to sign up for their conferences via Sycamore, and that was a huge success.

House Representative Holli Sullivan will visit GSCS on 10/31; we feel this will be a great PR day for GS. The event will be noted in The Message, but not in the Evansville Courier & Press. Dr. Daryl Hagan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will also be in attendance.

The internal review date with Sally Sternberg and other principals has been scheduled for Jan.16<sup>th</sup>.

The Marketing Committee had their first meeting on 10/5. This committee currently consists of Greg Rawski, Brandee Schnarr, Beth Elpers, Lynn Schesseele, Debbie Achilles, and Kristen Girten. We are hoping to bring in some additional committee members, such as parents and others. The meeting was very productive.

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

**Preschool Report:** Brandee reported: In September, she and Mrs. Girten attended the early childhood portion of the INPAC conference, which was a great learning opportunity. Lori Stevenson, an afternoon classroom assistant and after-care teacher, resigned in September, so

Brandee has been working to find coverage for the hours that she worked. She has started receiving emails from prospective families for the 2018-2019 school year, including 3 interested callers for tours, etc. Brandee is also passing along info about our Preview Night on January 10<sup>th</sup> and offering to give these families tours of our school. Since the Diocese-wide open house won't take place until February, our Preview Night and application process will already be in motion. She will also include a Save The Date for the folders that she gives to each prospective family.

Upcoming events include the firefighters/fire truck visit tomorrow, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Halloween costume party/parade around the school on 10/30, and a field trip to Wesselman Woods on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, the preschool AdvancEd date will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Brandee requested that the School Council discuss preschool/Pre-K tuition at our November meeting so that we have answers regarding tuition by their January Preview Night.

**Legislative Liaison:** Brandee reiterated that Holli Sullivan will visit GSCS on 10/31 from approximately 8:30 to 10am. Holli has been a House Representative since 2014 and is a big School Choice advocate. The tentative agenda will be a meet and greet in the cafeteria with School Council members who might be able to attend, Dr. Hagan, Father Zach, Mrs. Girten, and maybe a selected group of school choice families; probably some refreshments from the cafeteria staff, which would give us an opportunity to talk about the Farm to School movement; presentation of a couple gifts from two of our students (maybe an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and Kindergarten buddy); and a tour of the school with talking points along the way.

**Athletic Committee Report:** Mark Schuler reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade league will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of November. GS will be hosting 9-10 games on Saturday and 4 games on Sunday, with 4 games being held at ECS. Basketball practices are allowed to start this week. The fees have increased a little, to \$425.00 per team. GSCS has approximately 130 participants in winter sports. Mark is in the process of finalizing things with our coaches with emphasis on promoting our guidelines as well as the Diocese guidelines. We are allowed to hold practices at the St. Theresa gym 3 nights per week, at no charge.

**Tech Team Report:** Mark Schuler reported they had a meeting yesterday (10/11). Their main agenda was discussing funding for the 1:1 initiative for iPads. We have \$16,000 accumulated from the \$50 fees. Their goal is to establish something to help pay for the 1:1 initiative on a consistent basis and not to have to worry about it every year. Endowments are a possibility, and there are some endowments earmarked for "school" that a percentage of could be used for this purpose. Essentially \$15,000 will be needed annually with a goal of keeping the \$50 fee at \$50. We currently buy the iPads directly from Apple with a slight discount (\$10 off each) but the good thing about buying them directly from Apple is that we get their tech support. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed.

In other tech business, Mark met with WOW recently (we are currently/now with Spectrum) regarding looking into increasing our fiber bandwidth/internet.

**PTO Report:** Jen Blackburn reported that from August until October 11<sup>th</sup>, the PTO has made \$7,000 from dues, bingo and mums. The profit from the Paragon program will be approximately \$6,000. This is the last year of our contract with Paragon. Their next meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup>. They are thinking of ideas for a Spring event. January 30<sup>th</sup> will be the PTO bingo night and they will be needing lots of volunteers for that. It was noted that volunteers are also needed to help maintain the flagpole/plant area.

**Marketing Report:** Kristen reported they had their first meeting last Thursday and came up with

their mission statement. They have a small budget of \$2,000.00. Marketing ideas discussed included reaching out to nearby preschools; renewing/continuing with the GS decals; social media communication plans on Facebook and Twitter and the RamGram (i.e. to be more intentional with these posts); maybe have current 7<sup>th</sup> graders write a note to incoming Kindergarteners and mail it to their homes, since those 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be the “buddies” to them next school year; yard signs; and on our website, merging the Cafeteria and other links under one place. They are still looking for additional people to be a part of the Marketing Committee.

**Finance Committee:** Sara Rogier reported that the budget was approved by the Parish Council. She was assured that we will have updated financials by our next meeting date. We need to think about what sustainability we will need instead of always planning on an increase in tuition each year. We need to discuss and get recommendations regarding saving money on utilities and other ongoing expenses in order to avoid a tuition increase every year.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION** - None

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

8 a) School Council New Member. Sue talked to all of the new member prospects (Michael Schaefer, Rachel/Todd Mazzier, Amy Broshears and Maren Smith). Michael Schaefer actually offered and reached out to Father Zach about wanting to get more involved at GS; Maren Smith is a North High School teacher and would have good perspective; the Mazziers have good fundraising ideas/abilities; Amy Broshears ended up and declined the offer. After some discussion, Fr. Jerry suggested that we choose Michael Schaefer. A vote was taken and ALL were in favor. Kristen will contact him and invite him to our next meeting. NOTE: In a subsequent email on 10/13, Kristen announced that Michael accepted the position and will finish out Chris Newkirk’s term that ends June 2018 and then begin his 3-year term.

On the topic of fundraising, discussion was held about fundraising in general at GS. Mark reiterated the need for more volunteers/workers at our most successful and ongoing fundraiser -- BINGO – which literally brings in thousands of dollars of income every week.

8 b) Summer Camp. A proposal and budget are currently being worked on. The goal will be to consistently have enough campers to fit on 2 buses. We will need to ask parents to commit to full-time slots. The leadership team will consist of 2 co-directors and an assistant director. Mark will still be involved in pre-camp work that will need to be done between now and mid-May. Dan Deeg mentioned that he was approached by someone regarding safety concerns at Rochelle Pool (i.e. the language and behavior of other non-camp children). Mark stated that we now go to Rochelle Pool instead of Hartke Pool because Hartke has gone “downhill” (dirty bathrooms, no slide any more, exit issues, etc.) and that he feels like Rochelle is a nice, new, safe facility and still is a better option than Hartke.

8 c) Diocesan School Council Workshop. Several School Council members attended this Workshop on 9/19 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Catholic Center. In the interest of time, this topic will be put on the agenda and discussed at our November meeting.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting, which adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM. The next meeting date will be November 30, 2017, at 6PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanie Pohl, Secretary

