

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, November 30, 2017

Call to Order

Attendance:

School Council: Father Zach, Principal Kristen Girten, Sue Kroupa, Brandee Schnarr, Sara Rogier, Mark Schuler, Michael Schaefer, Sara Brown, Brian Kessler, Father Jerry, Greg Rawski, and Joanie Pohl. Jen Blackburn, Dan Deeg, and Mark Davis were absent. Sarah Gahagen was also in attendance.

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 October 12, 2017, were approved.

NOTE: Before the usual reports began, Sarah Gahagen reported regarding “Item For Decision” 7a) on the agenda, School Family BINGO Letter:

It has become critical to find more workers for our Bingo, our largest fundraiser. In the past, members of school families have been strongly encouraged to work a bingo crew, but no actual requirement has been enforced. Sarah presented a proposed letter to be distributed to school families via the Thursday folder. The letter has already been presented to and approved by the Parish Council and Finance Council. We have 9 crews (4 on Tuesdays and 5 on Sundays). After much discussion regarding the content of the letter, changes were suggested and Sarah will make the revisions, and Mrs. Girten will email School Council members the revised letter and ask for approval via email. It is hoped that the letter can go out by Xmas break. (The revised letter was emailed by Mrs. Girten to Council members on 12/3/17, and it was approved).

REPORTS:

President’s Report: No report.

Pastor’s Report: Father Zach is focusing on the school and parish-wide reconciliation services and other Advent activities.

Principal’s Report: Kristen reported: Sophia Kleiman’s and Annie Tenbarger’s vocation projects were chosen to represent GSCS at the annual Serra Club banquet on 11/6. Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended, and the Veterans Day mass/reception on 11/8 was also well attended. The speech team had a wonderful season and placed 3rd in their division in the Diocesan tournament on 11/14. We collaborated with the Evansville Red Cross in collecting gloves for their Totes of Hope project for homeless veterans. Our goal was 375 pairs of gloves; our final count for adult gloves was 392. Winter uniform begins on 12/1. On 11/15, we had a special dedication and blessing of the new garden at the front of school around the flagpole. This garden is dedicated to Mrs. Van Hoosier for her years of service at GSCS. She was able to join the school for Mass that morning and the dedication. The Christmas program will be 12/13 in the Parish Hall, with performances at 1pm and 6:30pm. The program will include students in preschool through Grade 5, and the Junior High band will also perform at the evening show. A variety show / talent show is currently being planned for the middle school students in the spring.

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

Preschool Report: Brandee reported: They took a field trip to Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve on 11/17. They celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday at school with a special meal/snack. They are working hard to prepare for their part in the upcoming Christmas program. Our teachers are gathering data, notes, and assessment information to prepare 2nd quarter progress reports that will be sent home to parents at the end of the grading period. Brandon Runyon from Swat Pest will be coming to our classrooms next Friday for a presentation on bugs and spiders. Invitations for our Little Rams Preview Night (January 10th at 6pm) along with applications for the 2018-2019 school year will be mailed to prospective families in early December. A notice has also been placed in the Ram Gram and will be placed in the parish bulletin by early January and on the school website.

Legislative Liaison: Brandee reported: Good Shepherd hosted a visit with State Representative Holli Sullivan on 10/31. During that visit, Dr. Hagen, Mrs. Girten, Father Zach, a couple of GS School Council Members, and 3 parents who participate in the School Choice program were able to meet with Representative Sullivan for an informal question and answer session. The visit included a tour and classroom visits.

The INPEA published an update regarding March payments for Choice Scholarships. "The public school enrollment exceeded the state funding cap for tuition support, thus requiring a proportionate reduction in school funding (including traditional public schools, charter, and Choice schools). Data is still being collected by the Indiana Department of Education. The preliminary estimates from the legislative services agency shows that it might be about \$5.58 per voucher. The General Assembly could choose to restore funding in the upcoming session, despite the fact that it is not a budget year, though we may not know specifics until January." INPEA will keep us posted. GSCS currently has 89 school choice students.

Athletic Committee Report: Mark Schuler reported: We are currently in the middle of basketball season. Our income for 3rd & 4th grade boys and girls basketball currently is \$16,248.20 and our expenses are \$5,242.18. Boys 5th and 6th will participate in the St. John's SAMSTRONG tournament again this year. It begins next week; 2 games are guaranteed plus a championship game. Make-up games (7) from November 18th will be played on 12/15 at GS and at St. John's on 1/4 and 1/6. Wrestling sign up forms will go out on 12/7. The Diocese is offering free passes for teachers to attend school sporting events.

Tech Team Report: Mark Schuler reported: As of 11/30/17, we have \$9,800 remaining in the technology budget. We have moved forward with WOW as our new IP provider effective January 1. The upgrade includes a Fiber 50MB dedicated line, phone and cable provider, savings \$200+ per month. Cable converter boxes will be replaced in classrooms for speed and consistency. A company called "Asset Refresh" was recommended by our Apple Sales team regarding the students' iPads. The current estimate on our iPad mini Gen. 1 is \$50-\$70 per device. This will input about \$2000 into the technology fund. Mark prefers for the devices to be out of our ownership. ISTEP state infrastructure trial was completed November 3rd; ISTEP online waiver was submitted on November 3rd; notice for paper pencil / online testing mode will be given in January.

PTO Report: In Jen Blackburn's absence, Sara Brown reported: The tribute to Mrs. Van Hoosier has been completed and dedicated; Paragon fundraiser is completed, which raised roughly \$6,000; Muffins with Mom on 11/28 was a success; Ornament making was 11/29; the Panera Giveback was well-attended; we are awaiting totals.

Upcoming events include the Christmas Program Prime Parking Spot and 4 front row seats raffle; the next PTO meeting is 1/18/18. The next Giveback will be in January at Schlotzsky's. The PTO bingo

will be January 30th and they need volunteers.

Marketing Report: Greg reported: Their first meeting was a month ago and it was very energetic. Ideas include continue giving out more GS car stickers, possibly passing them out after Mass. They plan to work on social media structuring and referral programs, possibly with realtors. There are 4-5 committee members currently but they are looking to add more members.

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier reported: Per her discussions with Sarah Gahagen, most budget variances between budget vs. actual appear to be timing related. Overall, school expenses are lower YTD than projected and income is slightly higher. The cafeteria is operating at a slight net income. Even with the increase to \$8/day, GAP is operating slightly negative to budget. Summer camp is currently operating at a net negative due to timing of expenses from previous summer camp versus income. Preschool has a slightly lower income than projected YTD. At our last finance meeting, preschool/Pre-K tuition was discussed. Both the 3-day and 5-day per week will see a small increase in the 2018-2019 school year. We like to maintain a \$10,000 buffer with income vs. expenses, but we are not there yet. As a side note, Father Zach noted that a check was received that might be able to be used for the Pre-K playground.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

7b) December Gathering. Our Christmas gathering will be December 7th in the Parish Hall following the 5:30 Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception. Father Jerry will be creating / providing dinner and dessert, and council members are asked to bring a beverage and/or appetizer to share with the group. Also, if desired, bring a \$10 “rob your neighbor” gift to exchange.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8 a) Little Rams Tuition Structure for 2018-2019. Brandee distributed copies of the Little Ram Tuition Analysis for review. A \$10 increase for All Day-5 and a \$5 increase for 1/2 Day-5 is being proposed for Pre-K, as well as a \$10 increase for Preschool All Day-3 and Preschool All Day-5, and a \$5 increase for 1/2 Day-5. We would like to keep the rate the same for Preschool 1/2 Day-3 because ours is higher than other east side preschools. This will be the first increase since the beginning, other than last year’s “ala carte” change. This proposal was approved by the Finance Committee on 11/15/17. After discussion, the proposal was approved by the School Council as well.

8 b) Diocesan School Council Workshop Summary Reports. Several School Council members attended this Workshop on 9/19 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Catholic Center. Greg attended the Strategic Planning session and he said what he learned was rather surprising: Every school must have a 3-yr, 4-yr and 5-yr strategic plan. The plans are due by next Christmas, which means that the plans must be signed off by Father Zach and implementation started. This will require lots of legwork and it will be a fairly extensive process. The hope is that we can “pool” the work that we have already compiled and completed that we did for the AdvancEd certification procedure.

Brian Kessler attended the Catholic Educator Award session. He will compile and type up a synopsis of what he learned and send it to Mrs. Girten.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting, which adjourned at approximately 7:25 PM. Our Christmas Gathering will be 12/7 at 6PM. The next official meeting date will be January 11, 2018, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Pohl, Secretary