

Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, July 26, 2018

Call to Order

Attendance:

School Council: Principal Kristen Girten, Father Zach, Dan Deeg, Brandee Schnarr, Sara Brown, Greg Rawski, Sara Rogier, Mark Schuler, Michael Schaefer, Dawn Bowen, Jen Blackburn, and Joanie Pohl were in attendance. Beth Keck and Brian Kessler were absent.

Prayer: Father Zach opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Welcome New Members: New members Beth Keck and Dawn Bowen were welcomed. However, Beth was not able to attend this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting on May 10, 2018, were approved as written.

REPORTS:

President's Report: No report.

Pastor's Report: Father Zach reported there are ongoing discussions regarding building a possible fence between GS and Stockwell School. Apparently there have been issues with Stockwell complaining that we are using their space on event days, such as our Summer Social, etc. Kristen noted that Stockwell School is an evacuation site for GSCS and vice versa, so therefore a permanent fence would not be possible. We will look into making a temporary fence with cones and ropes on GS event days if necessary.

There are 3 major events that GS will be hosting instead of St. Ben's Cathedral because they are in the process of some upgrading and construction. Those events are the Brute Mass on 11/4/18 (will include lunch and the Mass), Catholic Schools Week mass in January 2019 (on a school day), and the Memorial High School Baccalaureate Mass in May 2019. Much help and volunteers will be needed for these events for traffic control, etc.

The Youth Team is working hard figuring out how to "better" this ministry; looking into the possibility of a Sunday evening event. We will need to find a different location for the Rummage Sale that benefits our sister parish in Haiti, that previously was held at the St. Theresa campus.

Father Zach is sending a note to GS students who will not be returning to GS regarding sacraments, etc. He is also sending letters to graduating seniors regarding the various Newman Centers on college campuses and what they have to offer.

We will be offering a DVD series on "The Mass", 20-30 minutes each, 6 all together. Fr. Zach was thinking we could maybe pick a GS class for each and suggest they do the series as a family. He also noted that we need to focus on service with millennials and how we can bring people back to the church. We will discuss this again at the next School Council meeting.

Principal's Report: Kristen submitted her written report to School Council members via email prior to this meeting. Highlights include: Enrollment as of today 7/26 is 361, 317 students in K-8 and 44 students in preschool/Pre-K. We have 20 new students. Kristen is meeting with another prospective family tomorrow. Staffing: Our new K-4 teaching assistant is Emily Sellers. Kathy Raley will be coming back. The After Care still has 2 positions to fill. Regarding the Leader In Me program, all teachers received training this summer on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. They will also be attending a training session entitled "Launching Leadership and Creating Culture" on 8/31. Regarding the Bullying Survey, all GSCS parents, staff and students in 3-8 were given an opportunity in May to take an online survey on bullying. Kristen will be meeting with Christy Scroggins on Monday 7/30 to go over those results. Data results should be available to share in August; the results will also be shared with staff and families. Regarding the School Safety Grant, GSCS has received a school safety matching grant from the State of Indiana. The grant will be used for a new fob entry system to the school and security cameras inside and outside of the building. Jeff Cater is completing the work for this.

Kristen was pleased to announce that 100% of GSCS 3rd graders passed the IREAD test. Also, ISTEP results are expected to be finalized by July 26th.

School Year 2018-2019:

- August 5th, Junior High locker set-up
- August 5th, Kindergarten Orientation 2:00-4:00
- August 5th, Preschool Open House 2:00-4:00
- August 8th, 1st day of School
- August 9th, Parent Orientation for Grades 6-8
- August 16th, Parent Orientation for Grades 1-5

Preschool Report: Brandee reported that 2 new staff members will be Kelly Hamilton in the Preschool Teaching position; her schedule will be 6:55 to 12:00 daily. Also, Amy Quick has accepted the preschool teacher assistant position; she will be in the preschool classroom from 11:30 to 2:30 each day. Our preschool teachers have been exploring options for introducing a religion curriculum that can be used in the classrooms to support the religion standards that they teach our students. They have decided to pilot "Allelu!". It is a program developed for early childhood aged children. There is a home/school connection piece, that is somewhat costly, that we will consider for implementation for the 2019-2020 school year if Allelu! is successful with our students.

We recently hosted our first off campus community building event for our Little Rams families. It was a mid-summer meet and greet at Chick-fil-A. It was a very popular event, attended by 30 families and some of our staff members.

We have been working to increase efficiency and effectiveness with our After Care program. This year, the Little Rams After Care program will be overseen by Katie Lappe. We hope that when numbers decrease toward the end of the day, that the groups of students can be combined to more efficiently manage staff expenses. Also, it is being considered to end GAP at 5:30PM each day, instead of 6PM (the summer camp did this as well this summer).

Our Open House will be Sunday 8/5 from 2-4PM. Also, we are thrilled to announce that we received word this summer that our program received full accreditation from AdvancED. Our current waiting list includes 9 children wanting a Preschool spot, and 5 children wanting a Pre-K spot. Several additional phone calls from parents were received this summer from parents interested in preschool and pre-k spots. When they learned of our waiting list, they chose not to complete an application. We have a really great program, but our need for more physical space to house the Preschool and PreK seems to be our biggest obstacle. Much discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of devoting more space to this.

The “On My Way PreK” program sponsored by the State of Indiana would require more things to comply with; it is similar to the voucher program. It would provide another pathway for students to receive the School Choice voucher beginning in Kindergarten. We continue to have SGO’s available, which are \$500 scholarships which come from parish donations. \$6,500 is needed for the SGO program; we currently have less than \$1700, so we need to do a “push” (in the bulletin or otherwise) to parishioners regarding the tax benefits of this donation.

Legislative Liaison: No report this month.

Athletic Committee Report: Mark Schuler reported that Fall Sports are starting soon, including Girls Soccer 3rd thru 6th grades (working on expanding the 6th grade roster); Girls Volleyball 5th thru 8th grades (working on expanding the 8th grade roster); and Football including Flag, 3rd-4th grades and 5th-6th grades (only 4 players currently for 5th/6th). Additional equipment that needs to be purchased includes 2 soccer goals for U10; paint field liner, 2 replacement nets and Velcro, for a total cost of approx. \$2,250.00. GSCS will be hosting the following teams for games: Volleyball GL 5-6, Soccer GL 3-4 (M-W) and 5-6 (T-R).

Tech Team Report: Mark Schuler reported:

- a. Summer Projects completed on July 25th include AP (Access Point) expansions. NEW in Rooms 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112. OLD – Rooms 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123.
- b. Teacher Laptop replacement in Rooms GL 3-5. Working on joining the domain, adding anti-virus, Office Suite. Will begin on Monday July 30th.
- c. Regarding the iPad 1:1 Initiative, GL5 – GL8 ready for deployment to classrooms with Maraki Enrollment, Pushed requested APPS. 2018 class iPads have been deleted from Maraki which placed back needed license in the SM and they have also been removed from the Apple VPP. 2018 class iPads have been erased, wiped, and boxed for pick-up to be delivered to our buy back vendor (ASSETT REFRESH). Project will be complete July 27 upon delivery of all iPads to teacher HR’s

PTO Report: Jen Blackburn reported their current account balance is \$16,130.61. Summer expenses paid out include: Teacher academic calendars (\$210.05), Back to School Packs (\$3,654.20), Bus Transportation (\$900), and Teacher Start Up Money \$160 each to Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Folz.

Upcoming expenses to be paid will include paying for 8th grade graduation expenses and field day expenses (Jen has NOT received those bills yet). Upcoming events include a PTO Board meeting on 8/15. The first PTO meeting of the year is 9/6. The Paragon kick off is 9/13 (We signed a 1-year agreement this time instead of a 3-year agreement).

Finance Committee: Sara Rogier had no report. Michael Schaefer will be taking over Sara Rogier’s duties as the representative on the Finance Council.

Marketing Report: Greg Rawski reported that the yard signs need to be put out soon. As of now, all Kindergarten families will receive one to put in their yard. Greg will get with Kristen regarding how many are needed, etc.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

8. a) PTO Paragon Opt Out. The Paragon promotion is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are considering an Opt Out option regarding this annual promotion in order to increase profit for this fundraiser, where school families would be able to pay a certain “donation” dollar amount rather than actually soliciting sales from friends and family members for the Paragon products. Sara Brown distributed copies of a proposed letter/form to go to school families regarding this. Discussion was held

and ideas were suggested on fine-tuning the letter/form. In particular we will need to know additional information, including statistics of number of families and possible donation dollar amounts and how much income that might produce. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to go ahead with this Opt Out idea. (Sara Brown subsequently revised the letter/form and provided additional information via email to council members on 8/9).

Other fundraising ideas were also discussed, including a 5K maybe. In addition, the PTO is now funding the bullying program since we did not receive the grant we applied for.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9 a) Enrollment 2018-2019. Enrollment information can be found in these minutes with the Principal's Report.

9 b) Strategic Plan Goals - Draft. Kristen previously distributed her most current draft outline of the Strategic Plan Goals to Council members via email. Discussion was held. She would like help in particular regarding the finance wording, numbers and percentages.

Goal #1 under Catholic Identity, we need a way to "measure" how our goal of more Christian service can be attained. For instance, in the past teacher Maria Watson was spear-heading a once per month service project. We need to see how we can continue this monthly service project.

Goal #2, Increase school family attendance at Sunday Mass. Ideas discussed included donuts in the Narthex after Mass maybe once per month "sponsored" by a different class or a GSCS sports team each time, and creating more innovative ideas possibly on a monthly basis to get school families and parishioners to attend.

Goal #3, Increase school family involvement in parish life. Investigate how to track volunteer hours, possibly using the Sycamore program?

In the interest of time at this meeting, Kristen asked Council members to take this document home, review it, write down ideas, and be ready to discuss it again in detail at the next meeting date.

9 c) Diocesan School Council Workshop. This workshop will be Thursday 9/13 from 6:30 to 8pm at the Catholic Center. All school council members are encouraged to attend. This event will replace our regular September Council meeting.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting, which adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 23, 2018, at 6PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Pohl, Secretary