Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Cafeteria, 6:00 P.M.
Thursday, April 11, 2024

Call to Order

Attendance: School Council: Principal Kristen Girten, Fr. Zach Etienne, Brandee Schnarr, Sarah Ice, Michael Schaefer, Mark Schuler, Brooke Joergens, Brandon Ladley, Sean VanMeter, Beth Funk, Allison Scheu and Ann Piper were present. Ben Goedde, Marcy Groves and Gen Caudill were absent.

Sarah Ice opened the meeting.

Prayer: Fr. Zach said the prayer for our parish long term planning.

Mission Statement: Our mission statement was read by the council.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the meeting on February 8, 2024 were approved as written.

Reports

President's Report: There was no report.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Zach reported that the second Vietnamese Mass is scheduled for April 14th at 6:30.
A group of children and adults are touring Notre Dame with Wade Lovell. Financial help is requested for the trip.
Four parishioners were asked to serve on the Transition Committee for our long-term plan. With the Diocese's approval, Hafer and Asso. can begin designing the school and Bro. Martin can begin on a design for the church. These designs can then be presented to the people as the fundraising is initiated.
The second graders will make their First Communions on Sunday, April 21, 2024. More Baptisms and First Communions will occur on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:30 Mass.

Principal's Report: Kristen Girten submitted her written report to the School Council prior to the meeting via email.
Mrs. Debbie Achilles and Mrs. Kathy Raley have both announced their retirement at the end of this school year. Mrs. Amanda Smith will fill the position of Administrative Assistant and Mrs. Hannah Goad will be our new Kindergarten teacher.
Positions were posted for a preschool teacher and for a few teacher assistants for our Little Rams. Mrs. Dianne Thomas will be working full-time in the church office starting this summer.

On Friday, May 10 the eight-graders will go to St. Louis on their class trip. The Candle Mass will take place on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:40 a.m. Graduation will take place on Wednesday, May 22 at 6 p.m.
First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 21 at 10:30 Mass. The second graders will have their retreat day on Friday, April 12 in the Parish Hall.
Mrs. Girten and Mr. Goedde are currently collecting financial information from families and completing the applications for the Choice Scholarships (Vouchers).
The Indiana Department of Education ILEARN state assessment will begin on Monday, April 15.
GSCS was out of school on Tuesday, April 2 due to severe storms. This day will be made up utilizing the virtual option. Students will have access to lessons on Thursday, April 11. The completed lessons are due back on Tuesday, April 16.
Enrollment for 2024-2025 is being calculated. The office staff is currently collecting tuition agreements and applications for the 24-25 school year. We will have a waiting list for kindergarten of at least 10 students. Kindergarten Visit Days are April 9 and April 10. Acceptance letters will be sent out following visit day. With the waiting list, a non-Catholic family could potentially not get in to kindergarten even though the had attended the Little Rams program. Potential students are shadowing in other grades. An enrollment increase of at least fifteen students is projected.
New Religion textbooks will be purchased for next school year. The new textbooks will have online access to the text and activities. The Adoption Committee chose the Augustine Institute and Word of Life textbooks for K-8 students. The Word of Life textbook will replace Family Life. Mrs. Fulton served on the Diocesan Adoption Committee as the Good Shepherd representative.
Mrs. Girten is currently finishing classroom observations to prepare the teacher evaluations which are due to the Catholic Schools Office by May 1.

Preschool Report: Brandee Schnaar reported that the Little Rams are preparing for the end of the school year. All Pre-K students were given the Lollipop Test, a kindergarten readiness assessment, in March. Mrs.VanHoosier administered the assessment to all 43 Pre-K students. The Pre-K students will also be given the final STAR Early Literacy assessment towards the end of April or early May. All preschool students are given the Lollipop Test in April as a baseline assessment and to provide parents with helpful information in preparing for Pre-K. The Little Rams will receive a comprehensive report card at the end of the school year.
On April 22, Mary Jo Huff, a storyteller, will return for an on-site field trip.
Pre-K students will visit the kindergarten classrooms toward the end of April.
The Little Rams Bike Day will occur on the morning of April 26, 2024.
The Little Rams will function as hospitality hosts at the Masses on May 11 and 12.
The Celebration of Success is scheduled for the Pre-K students and their families on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00.

Legislative Liaison Report: Marcy Groves sent a report in her absence. With the new IREAD law, impacting current second graders, IREAD must be passed by third-graders, or third grade has to be repeated. There will be special considerations, but they are not known yet.

Athletics Report: Ben Goedde sent a report regarding current and fall sports. There are thirty-three fourth through eighth grade participants in track and field. The meets are at Memorial High School. The seventh and eighth grade students could also participate in MSH Cub Track and compete against Evansville area schools.
Good Shepherd will host an archery tournament during the first weekend in May. The Ozanam Family Shelter will benefit from the proceeds.
Sign ups for Fall sports will be sent out on April 15 with a deadline of May 15 in an attempt to get accurate information for teams before summer break. Fall sports offered through Good Shepherd are boys football (Grades1-6), girls soccer (Grades 3-6) and girls volleyball (Grades 5-8). Fall sports offered in partnership with MHS are boys and girls cross country (Grades 4-8), boys cub football (Grades 7-8), boys cub soccer (Grades 7-8), girls cub soccer (Grades 7-8) and boys tennis (Grades 6-8).

Tech Team Report: There was no report.

PTO Report: Brooke Joergens gave the PTO report. An air pump was purchased. Outdoor storage for the Little Rams was acquired, which Mr. Scott will assemble. The PTO is looking into a movable shade. Mulch has been purchased.
The Dewig Meat fundraiser was just completed. The flowers from the Spring fundraiser will be delivered April 19, 2024.
Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6 – 10 with a Fazoli's dinner.
CPR training is being offered online. Then, on May 23, Ascension will come and test the trainees with mannequins.

Financial Report: Brandon Ladley stated that the projected increase of fifteen students is better than originally budgeted.

Items for Decision

Items for Discussion

The School Culture Surveys are coming in and will be reviewed during the summer. There was some difficulty with going into a spam file. The Ram Gram may work better.

There is a need for a new fire alarm system. Three estimates have been solicited. The School Safety Grant may be needed to help with this.

The meeting dates for next year were reviewed. Since it seems to be more difficult for members to attend, only scheduling for months with key issues may help.

The School Council membership was discussed. Michael Schaefer will be leaving the council. The new PTO officer is not yet known. Sean VanMeter agreed to be President. Beth Funk and Sarah Ice are staying on the council. There is one position to fill.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed together by the council. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next GS School Council meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Piper, Secretary