**Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
Good Shepherd Catholic School Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
Thursday, February 14, 2019**

 **Call to Order**Attendance:

School Council: Principal Kristen Girten, Father Zach, Dan Deeg, Brandee Schnarr, Sara Brown, Sara Rogier, Dawn Bowen, Michael Schaefer, Beth Keck, Jen Blackburn, Brian Kessler, Mark Schuler, and Joanie Pohl were in attendance. Greg Rawski was 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 January 10, 2019, were approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

**President’s Report:** Dan Deeg reported that the Archery teams are having an amazing season; both teams qualified for State.

**Pastor’s Report:** Father Zach reported that his push this week has been working on the website, adding drop downs, making things easy to find. Also getting ready for Lent. This year, we will have Stations of the Cross and Bishop Robert Barron’s Series “The Mass” every Friday, March 8th to April 12th at 5:30pm. The new cry room is almost done; painting and windows soon. The hospitality provided by the Preschool class the first weekend of February was great; he thinks this activity will pay off in the long run. We are currently only at 67% of our CPC goal.

**Principal’s Report:** Kristen submitted her written report to School Council members via email prior to this meeting. Highlights include: The Message did a wonderful job of plugging Good Shepherd and our Preschool in particular in a recent article; we are very pleased with that. Congrats to teacher Courtney Kraft and her husband on the birth of their son on 2/10. Ben Garrett will be stepping in as the substitute teacher for 3K. We currently have 1 more built-in snow make up day on 4/22. If we miss 1 more day, we will make it up on 4/22. If we happen to miss 2 or more days, they will be made up on the day of, utilizing eLearning. The IN Dept of Education has approved the school’s application for virtual learning days. Teachers have been working to prepare for this if needed and parents have been notified via the Ram Gram.

Kindergarten Orientation will be 2/20 at 6pm. The Family Life supplement to the religion curriculum will begin the week of 2/25 for grades 4-8. ILEARN is the standardized test that is taking the place of ISTEP. The testing window for ILEARN is 4/22 – 5/17. IREAD is a required standardized reading test for grade 3. The window for administering the test is March 18-22. GSCS will participate in a War on Hunger the week of Feb. 18. All donations will benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. We celebrated Catholic Schools Week during the week of Jan. 28. GSCS hosted a “Come and See” Open House on January 31 from 5-7 pm. It was a wonderful evening; we had 15 prospective families attend with the possibility of 19 new students for next school year.

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

**Preschool Report:** Brandee’s report was submitted to School Council members via email prior to this meeting. Highlights include: We received lots of positive feedback from parents regarding the Preschool and Pre-K students hosting the hospitality after the masses recently. Pre-K students have taken their second STAR Early Literacy assessment. It is a formal standardized assessment measure which addresses our AdvancEd improvement priority area, which is one of our goals.

We continue to evaluate the need for an expansion of our Preschool and Pre-K classes. Currently, we have applications for 33 Preschool students (21 5-day students and 12 3-day students). We have applications for 34 Pre-K students (31 full day and 3 half day). There is a handful of parishioners who would not get a spot in either our Preschool or Pre-K program if we don’t proceed with expanding. We also have a couple of students on our waiting list who are parishioners at other parishes that don’t have elementary or early childhood programs. If 2 classes of PS and PK are approved, we have a revised acceptance letter we will send home. This will include the information that the expansion will be in the form of a modular classroom.

The entire Little Rams staff participated in a special professional development course yesterday with “Joy for the Journey Counseling”. Our staff learned about brain development in children, regulation, and strategies to use in the classroom. This was a great learning opportunity for our staff.

Brandee will be sending home the Little Rams parent satisfaction survey soon. Mary Jo Huff will be coming to do a storytelling hour with our classes on March 11. This will be an on-site field trip.

**Legislative Liaison Report:** Beth Keck distributed copies of her report at the meeting. The session started in January, and there are several items impacting K-8 schools. Bill information from INPEA includes:

SB241 Transferring a Choice scholarship (Freeman)

HB1004 School Safety (McNamara)

HB1640 School Accreditation (Behning)

Safety Bills (there are approx. 15 bills dealing with school safety)

Teacher Training

Guns in Churches on School Grounds

Challenges to Choice

More detailed information regarding the above bills can be found in Beth’s written report on file with these minutes.

**Athletic Committee Report:** Mark Schuler had no formal report tonight. Next month he will have a report regarding how the 3rd and 4th grade basketball season fared financially. Wrestling is currently still going on. The 7th and 8th grade boys’ basketball season went well.

**Tech Team Report:** Mark Schuler reported they had no meeting this week, so no pressing issues at this time. They did a statewide readiness test for ILEARN; the teachers have more hands-on duties with this test. Mark and Kristen will attend training next week regarding ILEARN. Our staff already went through a readiness certification/test.

**Marketing Report:** No report (Greg Rawski absent).

**PTO Report:** Jen Blackburn’s report was submitted via email to Council members prior to this meeting. Highlights include:

Current Balance as of 2/12/19 - $30,091.32

Income
       Cokes rewards - $49.20 (new!)
       Box Tops - $443.50
       Panera Give Back - $57.40 (not really worth it)
       Spirit wear fleece - $1075 (-$8)
       Dewig Fundraiser - $3,720 (profit $915.68) – 1st time; will be advertised in bulletin next time!
       Parent Donation - $150
       Paragon - $336.45 (profit to date $6,516.05)

Expense
       Ornament Making - $224.62
       Bus Transportation - $540
       Dewig Fundraiser - $2,824.32
       Catholic Schools Week Bounce House - $300
       Staff Luncheons Oct & Jan - $563.76
       Spirit wear fleece - $1,083

Upcoming
       Feb 22    Daddy/Daughter Dance
       March 13     McTeacher Night
       April 25        Spring PTO Meeting
       April 17        Flower Sales Delivery
       TBD             Mornings with Mom, formerly Muffins with Mom
       TBD      Mother/Son Outing
       TBD             Donuts with Dad
       Lindsay Roberts working on two more Give Backs to finish the school year.

Additional news: Tara Voliva will be the new Treasurer; Amanda Daily will be the new Secretary. PTO will look into selling cinnamon rolls made by Judy Schmitt of Haubstadt as a fundraiser to maybe replace the Panera Bread give-back.

**Financial Report:** See K-8 Tuition 2019-2020 and Little Rams Expansion Classroom Structure information below.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

7 a) K-8 Tuition 2019-2020. Michael Schaefer distributed via email prior to this meeting his detailed compilation of information regarding this topic. Four proposals were presented to the Finance Council at their meeting last week. They ranged from freezing tuition all the way up to raising tuition by 6.5% to cover the increase in operating expenses anticipated for next year, and some in between. The Finance Committee approved sending two (2) proposals back to School Council to vote on and approve one. Both of these proposals are “tuition freezes” for all practical purposes. Michael then went over the details of the compilation, including Historical Enrollment, Current Enrollment, Operating Expenses, Tuition Scenarios, Analysis/Summary, and Evansville area school tuition comparison. Discussion was held. After discussion, a motion was made to accept suggested Scenario #1: Tuition Freeze, 2nd child +$2000, 3+ child +$1500 (matches current adders). This was also the scenario preferred by the Finance Council. The motion was passed, with all voting members present in favor of this Scenario. In addition, it was agreed that we need to find ways to lower our expenses (lights, energy, etc.).

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

8 a) Little Rams Expansion Classroom Structure. Michael Schaefer reported that when we came out of our last meeting, we had approved a motion to form an exploratory committee to put together a financial analysis and timeline to possibly getting modular classrooms to add a Pre-K class next year. After discussion with the Finance Committee last week, it was decided to go from analyzing to implementing this idea. It was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee to “make it happen”. Data and information has been gathered, and it was decided to have one modular building with 2 classrooms (2 classrooms in 1 unit). Questions were asked and discussion was held about possibly capping the Preschool at 36 students and the Pre-K at 40. The plan is to have the modular classroom sit on the back parking lot parallel to the Media Center and the 1st grade classrooms. There will be awnings to completely cover the area between the school and the modular. There will be 1 bathroom in each of the 2 classrooms in the modular. It is anticipated that the modular will be here before the Summer Social. A letter will go out tomorrow regarding the expansion and modular classroom. As always, QUALITY is our top desire/priority.

The Come Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the end of the meeting, which adjourned at approximately 7:23 PM. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanie Pohl, Secretary