

St. Gerald School Advisory Board

2016-2017 School Year

Approved Minutes

August 23, 2016

School Library – 6:30 p.m.

Opening: Opening Prayer – 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call-Attendees: Kris Sigmund, Nancy Kochanowicz, Allison Balus, Phil LaSala, Michaela Goerke, Christy Keenan, Fr. Mark Nolte, Katie Digilio, Natalie Whitman, Sarah Cunningham, Nikki Batenhorst (Absent: Tobi Mathouser, Carisa Dillon)

Approve minutes from last meeting: Allison Balus provided the motion to approve the June minutes. Phil LaSala seconded the motion to approve.

Welcome Visitors: No visitors.

Principal Report:

- Enrollment is 385 – this includes 32 new families.
- PreK is off to a great start – 11 students in the morning session and 9 students in the afternoon session (3 students who are enrolled in the afternoon session are also enrolled in the morning session).
- New Family Handbook is almost complete – Michaela pointed out a few specific areas she would like the Board to review – but welcome to review all. Feedback is due to Michaela by this Friday the 26th at 3:15.
- Back to School Nights are August 30th for PreK-5 and September 1st for 6th -8th. The sessions are different, so parents with students in both grade ranges are encouraged to come to both sessions.
- In addition to the PreK addition over the summer, the boiler removal and HVAC updates that also took place were successful. The boiler and HVAC were paid for by the parish campaign.
- New Staff includes:
Art – Theresa Smith (Wed afternoons & Fridays, 4th-8th grade)

PE – Joe Kaup

Counselor – Denise O’Gara (Mon & Wed)

Computer – Jen Maher (using Learning.com for all grades, there is a financial component in this program, individualized program by student, there will be supervisors in lab, she will be here when she is teaching and they aren’t using the web based program. She will handle all grading)

1st grade – Maria Moragues

4th grade – Hailey McGargill

PreK – Jen Shepoka

5th grade – Ashton Kotas

There was a brief discussion on teacher contracts and the consequences of breaking contracts after they have been signed. This was also discussed with the teachers at a meeting.

- HOPE – would like this year’s proceeds to go to wireless infrastructure in the building – this is approximately \$60k.
- Middle School Discipline change – rather than behavior cards, the discipline portal in Sycamore will be used. Pass a notes will be sent via Sycamore to all teachers and parents. Met with 6th-8th grade students to explain the changes. Different behaviors have different point values assigned.
- A few more handbook items were discussed – Cell phone policy, water bottles allowed in all classrooms, students bringing snacks and nut allergies.

Assistant Principal Report: Nothing beyond what was shared in the Principal’s report.

Pastor Report:

- Father Mark noted that All School Mass will now be held once a month in the gym. There will be plenty of space for parents to attend and they are always welcome.
- Both Father Mark and Father Mike will be visiting the classrooms.
- They want to encourage confession – 3-4 times per year.

Committee Reports:

- Home and School: (Sarah/Nikki) - Finalized dates for the year this morning. A new Facebook page has been started – this will be used for volunteer signups and other messages.
- Finance: no report
- Recruitment: (Kris S.) - the uniform sale was a success – the committee is going to meet and discuss how to rework the buddy family/new family event as it is too much to have it at the same time as open house.

- Parish Council: (Katie D) – September 15th @ 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall is the meeting for all committee leaders (similar to the offsite meeting we had last fall). 7:00 – Deacon Steve Luna will present on the book “Divine Renovation” – moving parish from maintenance to mission. The Parish Council will be going through this book at their monthly meetings.

There was a brief discussion as to why some of the new families chose St. Gerald. Volunteer requirements for school families were also discussed.

SAB President:

- School Policy Review status was briefly discussed – Phil and the committee will meet after the meeting is adjourned to determine a time to work through. Phil noted that Jen Tselentis is available to help if needed. The Family Handbook should have a lot of the information needed to update this.
- Bulletin Board for August/September – Kris Sigmund & Allison Balus – showcasing the new teachers for this school year.
- Bulletin Board sign-up was passed around to all members.
- SAB website update was discussed.

Natalie Whitman mentioned that smile.amazon.com is another place where St. Gerald can get funds if people use it to shop and select St. Gerald. Michaela will look into – as an account needs to be created to collect the funds.

A brief discussion on signage was initiated by Fr. Mark – due to the two locations and the school being deep in the neighborhood. Michaela mentioned that recruitment committee has been working on this and recruitment will revisit the topic.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2016 in the school library at 6:30 p.m.

Closing: Closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.