

St. Gerald School Advisory Board

2016-2017 School Year

Approved Minutes

September 13, 2016

School – 6:30 p.m.

Opening: Opening Prayer – 6:34 p.m.

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

Approve minutes from last meeting: Phil LaSala provided the motion to approve the June minutes. Allison Balus seconded the motion to approve. The minutes were then approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

Welcome Visitors: No visitors.

Principal Report:

- The five-year approval visit for St. Gerald's accreditation has been scheduled for February 22. Mrs. Goerke and Mrs. Keenan have formed a faculty committee to assist with the visit. The visit will be conducted by Catholic school principals. St Robert's principal is heading it up.
- The Archbishop's visit to the school was wonderful. Students all applauded him when he walked out of the building. He went to every classroom to talk to the kids.
- Grandparents' lunch at the school was on September 13. It went well. It is always crowded and crazy. It was very well attended, as was the book fair in the library.
- Midquarter is Friday, September 16. Grades K through 2 will receive paper reports. Grades 3 through 8 will be able to access their grades on Sycamore.
- Picture day is September 21, which will be a free casual day. The Board discussed how the quality of the photographs has improved since a couple years ago. This led to a discussion about whether a committee needs to be formed to assist with the yearbook.

- Tera Nova testing will be September 26–30.
- A new family is transferring to St Gerald. They have 3 children. The school's total enrollment is now at 389, which is a comfortable number.

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

Pastor Report: Fr. Mark was absent, so there was no pastor report.

Committee Reports:

- Home and School: (Nikki)
 - H&S will meet next week.
 - Open House and Back to School Night went well.
 - The committee got the Walk of Pride surveys back and will use the results in planning next year's event. The Board discussed whether, as was done in 2015, the big award for the grade that raises the most money for Walk of Pride should again be the school day off after Mothers' Day mass.
- Recruitment: (Kris S.)
 - The committee met last week to discuss the planning for Open House. Next year, the committee will not do the buddy family/new family orientation at Open House. They are discussing doing a recruitment committee Q&A for new families in the chapel on the Sunday before Open House. The Board discussed whether teacher assignments could be posted on Sycamore earlier in the day so that Open House is not so chaotic right at the beginning, with families coming too early.
 - The committee discussed whether to do something for Veterans Day, such as having veterans visit the class rooms.
 - The Board went into executive session from 7:06 to 7:09.
 - The Recruitment committee discussed where additional signs advertising the school can be placed.
- Maintenance: The committee's August report was distributed to all of the Board members.
- Finance: no report
- Parish Council: with Katie absent, there was no report. A reminder was given to Board members to attend the Leadership Meeting on September 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

SAB President:

- The school's bulletin board at the church was updated for August/September, showcasing the new teachers for this school year. This display will stay up through September. Phil will change the bulletin board in October to showcase the new Pre-K and the Archbishop's visit.

- 2016-2017 school bulletin board schedule was assigned to SAB members. If you need to switch with someone, please notify Tobi Mathouser.
- Follow St. Gerald School on Twitter at @stgeraldschool

Pending Business:

- Phil LaSala gave a report on his progress on the school policy review. He spoke with Jennifer Tslentis to gather some background information. The idea for a policy review started about six years ago. The SAB started its own book, cutting and pasting from the Archdiocesan handbook. The intent was to clarify the policies for parents. What they were doing was not very efficient, and they did not get very far. They were just cutting and pasting from the parent handbook (which Mrs. Goerke just revised last month). There are potentially some policies within the Archdiocesan Handbook that need to be specific to St. Gerald. Phil also corresponded with Patrick Slattery, the Superintendent for Omaha Catholic schools. The Archdiocese is undertaking a major review of its policies. Phil recommended that the Board wait until the revised Archdiocesan policies come out. His recommendation is that, rather than cutting and pasting from those policies, the Board should identify places where St. Gerald needs to add to the policies for situations specific to our school. The Board's goal will be to know what and where policies are and to add as necessary. Phil will provide an update next month.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2016 in the school library at 6:30 p.m.

Closing: Closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.