

# St. Gerald School Advisory Board

2015-2016 School Year

Approved Minutes

January 12, 2016

School Library – 7:00 p.m.

## Opening:

Opening Prayer: *Lectio Divina* on Mk 10:13-16.

Roll Call-Attendees: Father Korte, Dennis Rinkol, Nancy Kochanowicz, Michaela Goerke, Christy Keenan, Katie Digilio, Kris Sigmund, Buffy Larson, Allison Balus, Phil LaSala

Minutes from November 2015 meeting were approved.

Welcome Visitors: None.

## Principal Report:

Preschool: Jen Shepoka hired as the preschool teacher. She is canvassing some well performing preschool programs for best practices. Architectural planning continues for the preschool remodeling project. Registration for Fall 2016: 6 morning students and 2 afternoon students.

*Terra Nova* Results: St. Gerald students are generally performing well relative to other Omaha-area archdiocesan schools and the nation; some additional data analysis to follow.

Open House: Scheduled for Sunday, 24 January, 8:00 am – Noon. The Pancake Man will be serving free breakfast courtesy of the Home and School Association. The Open House will feature school tours and information on school clubs and parish organizations. Teachers will be present and classrooms will be open. School Advisory Board and Recruitment Committee members will promote the Open House before and after all masses during the weekend of 16-17 January.

2016-2017 School Calendar: In draft form, with additional coordination pending from the Calendar Committee.

Catholic Schools Week: 24-30 January. Scheduling differs from national celebration due to timing of Lent and this year's Angel Auction. Eighth graders will be bussed to mass at the Cathedral on 4 February, followed by pizza at Sortino's.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Thursday, 4 February, Noon – 7:00 pm. Mrs. Goerke will consider ways to offer extended conference times to parents who request them. Emphasis will be on ways to keep parents and teachers on schedule, and some teachers may use timers to support this. Moreover, pass-a-note and other forms of follow-on communication with teachers are always available as needed.

Other February Events: Angel Auction on Saturday on 6 February; Dads and Donuts at 7:15 am on 9 February; and Valentine's parties and middle school ice skating on Friday, 12 February. Kindergarten Parents Meeting on Thursday, 25 February at 6:30 pm, followed by Kindergarten Roundup on Friday, 26 February, 9:00 – 10:30 am.

Walk of Pride: Thursday, 21 April at 11:00 am. One of the school's goals is an upgraded wireless system, and the Home and School Association has committed to help support that effort.

NCEA Conference: Home and School Association is funding this trip to San Diego. Christy Keenan and Amanda Ackerman will attend.

Assistant Principal Report: None

Committee Reports:

Maintenance: Discussed reroof, HVAC, and wall repair work at the school. Recently completed projects at 96<sup>th</sup> and Q include replaced sidewalk panels, painting, and lighting. Some concrete crack repairs will be delayed until spring.

Home and School: Current focus is on Catholic Schools Week activities and donating one year's tuition for bidding at the Angel Auction.

Parish Council: Continuing initiative to provide greeters for select masses.

Finance: None

Recruitment: Emphasis on promoting the upcoming Open House. Two new members from the recent Stewardship Fair.

Pastor Report:

Parish Mission: 20-23 February.

- Wherever possible, conflicting parish events will be rescheduled to promote maximum attendance of the mission.
- The parish will provide childcare on Saturday, 20 February, 6:00 – 8:00 pm and Sunday, 21 February, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. A request for Safe Environment-trained volunteer parents to assist with childcare will be in an upcoming *Pride Report*.

- School children will be bussed to view the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles in one-hour sessions over two days, and Eucharistic Adoration and some student writing assignments will help to reinforce the children's experiences with the exhibit.
- An email to parish leaders requests their assistance with underwriting this important event.

Family Formation: Feedback has been favorable. Father Korte is considering approaches to improve attendance.

HVAC Upgrade: This \$350,000 project will provide much-needed heating and cooling improvements for six classrooms and associated bathrooms, and will replace one aging boiler with two high efficient units that will provide uninterrupted heating even if one boiler fails. The project may also replace the chapel HVAC.

Finance Committee Reporting Initiative: 27-28 February and 5-6 March. During the first weekend, the Finance Committee will provide an overview of parish finances at all masses, and parishioners will receive a subsequent mailing on their individual giving. During the second weekend, parishioner witness talks during all masses will highlight the value of the parish family in their lives, along with the importance of investing in this family. Open forums will follow the 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am masses to address questions on the budget.

SAB President:

Angel Auction: The School Advisory Board is donating a basket containing HOPE certificates and school supply accents.

Bulletin Board ideas: The Recruitment Committee did an excellent job with the current board, and future themes will promote the preschool, Catholic Schools Week, and registration for the upcoming school year.

**Next Meeting will be February 9, 2016.**