

## St. Gerald School Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2014

### **Present**

Fr. Malcom, Pastor  
Al Theis, Principal  
Jen O'Reilly, President  
Gail Stearns-Hussein, Vice-President  
Paulina Bednarek, Secretary  
Jennifer Cronin  
Nicholas Suh  
Theresa Munoz  
Michael Johnson  
Daniel Cerceo

### **Absent**

Joanne Chavez Buchanan

### **Guests**

Sharon Duggan  
Michelle Soto  
Margie Colesby

**Called to order at:** 7:00pm

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Malcom

### **Pastor's Report**

- Rain buckled the gym floor over the summer. It was discovered that water is coming in from under the door, put in more caulking, heat was applied and most of the wood is back to normal.
  - One section is not fixed yet, however it is not in the playing area and should not affect the gyms use.
  - Ongoing fight between the insurance companies regarding how to fix to repair (use sanding, replace boards, etc.)
    - One of the options requires the gym to be closed for 2 weeks\_and also would need the buildings heat to be on which would require putting off the repairs until winter.
    - Jennifer Cronin asked about the caulking needing more upkeep.
    - Yes it will need occasional upkeep but the bigger issue is getting the problem permanently fixed. It was the southwest corner of gym where the platform off Emergency Exit is and the question still remains whose responsibility it is to fix the grade of sidewalk so it drains into the grass and not into the gym..
- Carnival meeting report
  - \$44,729.91 which is a record profit and will be used to reduce debt for monthly assessment for gym
  - received donations in lieu of flowers from Jonathon Collin's grandfather who passed away for over \$3000 (donations still coming in) to be used towards the gym debt

### **Principal's Report**

- Accreditation process was explained

- The entire diocese is doing this. All schools are already accredited however they are looking to have schools further accredited.
- We are getting ready with website and webpage
  - There will be an executive summary of programs and test scores available to the public
  - Jennifer O'Reilly asked when this will be up.
    - Al Theis did not know.
      - His guess was when the accreditation team of 20 comes in April it will be viewable.
  - It will be looked at by accrediting team who will give constant feedback.
    - Jennifer O'Reilly asked if it will be on archdiocese's website  
And suggested we could put it on our website
      - Al Theis said no it's not on the archdiocese's but on the Advanced Ed's website
- School is rated as proficient in every tested grade and Al Theis is happy to share papers and scores with anyone who wants to see them.
- We have picked 3 things we want to work on for school goals this year
  - Religion
  - Writing across the curriculum not just English but to challenge the students to write in Science, Social Studies, and Math
  - Lost 3<sup>rd</sup> one
- We also won't lose the other goals that we adopted in past years.
  - See attached handout
- Theresa Munoz asked about the common core and was answered by Mr. Theis who stated that the archdiocese is moving towards adopting the common core as its standard but each individual school will have the option to utilize the parts of common core it feels are best and to ignore the parts that are not.
  - Jennifer Cronin asked how private school kids (not taught with common core) who go on to attend public high schools are faring since most public grammar schools follow the common core. Mr. Theis and Gail Stearns-Hussein both commented that our curriculum translates well to public high schools and that most of our graduating students do very well at public high schools.
  - Paulina Bednarek asked about PARCC. Al Theis said no worries that the progress for all the students for higher order thinking skills is on our plate. The school is using professional development time to work on these goals. On 08/18, 08/20, 10/17 and 2/13. They will probably be out of school at other locations.
- Handout at Grades 1-8 meeting discussed – see attached
  - Gail Stearns Hussein asked who is training the teachers on Power School.
    - Power School Company is, office staff went for 2 days in early August, the teachers were trained on 8/20.
    - We will continue to learn by implementing.
  - What Power School does not offer we can buy ala carte. We are going to get School Reach for emails and emergency alerts.
  - We are going to trimesters, it is a default of Power School but there are lots of positives. The negatives are negligible, like when to induct NJHS society for example.
    - Gail Stearns Hussein commented that it is user friendly.
    - Nicholas Suh asked about the cut off dates for trimesters.
    - Al Theis said he just evenly divided the school year. He asked for patience of everyone. They will be picking report card format next week. It will be similar as possible to what we already have.

## **President's Report**

- We need a new board member. Please try to recruit someone.
- Joanne Chavez Buchannan is absent so we will review her suggested changes to the bylaws and constitution at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

- Committee signups – explanation of each on attached handout
  - Budget: Jennifer Cronin
  - Building and Maintenance: Daniel Cerceo
  - Planning and Policy: Gail Stearns Hussein and Paulina Bednarek
  - Development: Jennifer Cronin, Gail Stearns Hussein and Jennifer O'Reilly
  - Marketing and Research: Daniel Cerceo
  - Legislation: Theresa Munoz
  - Technology: Michael Johnson, Nicholas Suh, and Daniel Cerceo
- Discussion ensued about the technology committee
- Al Theis said that over the summer the Manna program funded all new computers in the lab and ELS room
  - The computers taken out will be tested and refurbished if needed. They will go into teachers' rooms
  - Jeff Norris's Company guides us on that
- Daniel Cerceo asked if school grants were under development
  - Jennifer O'Reilly went stated that Debbie Janicke handles the writing of school grants, but she is always looking for help if anyone is interested.
- Theresa Munoz asked if we have a computer teacher. Al Theis explained the situation that we used to share one with Germaine, but St. Germaine decided to go on their own and hired an intern as their computer teacher. We are using substitutes as of now, but actively searching for a permanent teacher.
- More discussion ensued regarding the computer teacher. We are looking for someone half time, which makes the search difficult.
  - Nicholas Suh talked about the hour of code Ms. McGinnis did last year.
  - Al Theis said Ms. McGinnis did leave us all her copies of her lessons to use with substitutes and once a permanent teacher is hired.
- Al Theis mentioned that we are waiting on Mrs. Stafford to return as music teacher, whenever she will be ready. She has problems with her vocal cords and cannot teach right now. We are using substitute teachers.. On Mondays we will have Witek Socha and Wednesdays Richard Winnire. They both currently teach part time at other catholic schools and will be using what they are teaching at their current schools.
- Grades 1-8 and 1 Kdg will have Coach Reif for gym and an extended day worker who recently got her bachelor's degree will start next Wednesday for the other gym classes.

### **Old Business**

- None to report

### **New Business**

- There was a discussion about air conditioning. Theresa Munoz asked if parents can buy window ac units. Al Theis said it might be a problem with the wiring and circuits if many classes had window units. Fr. Malcolm said even in the rectory he has circuit problems. The teachers are encouraged to use the other rooms that do have ac.
- Discussion ensued as to whether or not qualified parents and parishioners could help with repairs around the school or whether only archdioceses approved contractors could be used. It was decided that as long as the individual is qualified and has insurance, they can be used around the school.
  - It was suggested that anytime work is needed around the school to send out a request to parents and parishioners asking if anyone would donate their time to help.

### **Announcements**

- None

### **Comments/Questions from the Floor**

- None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Gail Stearns Hussein    **Second:** Paulina Bednarek

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Malcom

**Adjourned:** 8:00pm