

St. Gerald School Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016

Present

Fr. Malcolm, Pastor
Al Theis, Principal
Dan Cerceo, President
Paulina Bednarek, Vice President
Theresa Munoz
Cindy Vega
Carlos Delgado
Brenda Ochoa
Anmarie Waters

Absent

Gail Stearns-Hussein, Secretary
Nicholas Suh
Lisette Alvarado

Guests

Jen Mroz
Sharon Duggan
Therese Fiscella
Carolyn Horn
Jen McAcy

Called to order at: 7:05 pm

Opening Prayer: Fr. Malcolm

Motion to approve minutes from February 2015:

1st Theresa Munoz, 2nd: Paulina Bednarek

Pastor's Report

- Talks about Teach Who Christ Is at every mass, initial group met to do pledges 68 people, then had 2nd group, had over \$273, 400 money pledge towards the \$1 million, \$640,000 stay here if we raise \$1 million, quarter thousand goes to archdiocese
 - Profit will go towards roof, make church handicapped accessible at the main door, and energy efficient windows in school
 - will create a grant to help arch diocese to raise money for families to send
 - St. Germaine and St. Bede went over their goal

Principal's Report

- Hand out passed out to reference

- Catholic Identity survey results
 - Focus on the things that are lower on the survey rating between parents and students
 - Recognition of being connected to Catholic Bishop
 - Recognizing and developing the gifts of everyone in the community and respect for others, we will focus on
 - In the past teachers had to go to special courses for Religion, a lot of them are being moved to online, as well as REY Catechist. We are the host for a retreat for teachers as a pilot program on March 18. Not our teachers yet.
 - Holy Week activities were discussed
 - 3rd and 5th grade are doing special presentations
- Academic Excellence
 - Scholarship winners are starting to be announced from the Catholic High Schools
 - Alumni Justin Fekete placed 6th in whole state competition
- Aspire Practice tests
 - 3rd round being finished up for grades 3 to 8
 - Actual test is week of April 11, Monday through Thursday, diocese has specified which test on which date will be given
 - “Is aligned to more rigorous curriculum standards that require students to respond to more complex questions.....statement from Dr. Kearney
- STEM/STEAM News
 - Presentation about Sally Ride on Wed. March 16 at 1:15pm
 - Computer coding for April 26 presented by Emily Kenny, trainer for student exposure. For grades 4th through 8th
 - Survey Monkey was done 4 years with Ms. McHenry and she will help once again to set up a short survey about STEM/STEAM for parents to fill out, not only data that will be discussed
- Vitality
 - Positive indications tuition recovery and future enrollment
 - 1st report, 135 students reregistered current at this moment
 - Dinner Dance is April 2nd, most important fundraiser which will be followed closely by the Hoopathon/Walkathon on May 6
- Mothers Club gave a check of \$13,000 plus from fundraising, plan is to be applied towards the PowerSchool expense, Aspire Test program, and repair of the boiler room door which is in bad shape
- Parish Council is working towards getting funding towards air conditioning

President's Report

- Thank you for attending the Secure Safety Presentation
- Passed out handouts from presentation and will post online
- Plan is to schedule some presentations for students regarding internet safety

Committee Reports

- Budget & Finance
 - Margie Colesby: collection is doing well
 - Including March \$6600 approximately past due, \$3000 that could be considered past due, among about a dozen families (last year was about 30), with everything put in place we didn't need to exclude. Margie would like to ask board to tweak tuition contract before next fall.
- Marketing and Public Relations
 - Brenda would like to use social media to get registrations, appointments, and tours.
- Planning and Policy
- Development
 - Cindy is going over grants with Lisette with a list of grants, which is provided by Google for education.
- Building and Maintenance
 - Cleaning update
 - See new business
 - AC Status
 - Parish Council working on that
 - Rewiring, has to be done by code
 - Margie has said this is the farthest we have gone by air conditioning
 - We will be discussed next month as to progress
 - Playground covering
 - Are there any plans or funds available to cover
 - Connect with Margie who said a parent might be able to help
- Legislative Action
 - None
- Technology
 - May need new computer teacher if current does not return
- Safety and Security
 - Evacuation plans, Covington school is our go to school

Old Business

- Prek/K open house debriefing
 - 4 families that came, 2 have current students enrolled and 2 new families
 - Maybe for next year have an evening Open House
- Southside Irish Parade
 - We are number 18. Have banners and decorations. Meeting at school and have Arnold Hall and will carpool. Signed up for 75 people but have 150 people walking.

- Sold \$1000 worth of sweatshirts
 - Shows a lot of school pride

New Business

- Review of constitution and bylaws
 - Added Safety and Security Committee
 - Read overview of duties of committee
 - Will be approved after next meeting by Mr. Theis and Fr. Malcolm
- Recommendations for 2016/17: See handout
 - Policy recommendations drafted like we did last year in May
 - School Cleaning
 - Request forms for maintenance in each classroom for staff to use and have easily accessible
 - Cleaning Log, particularly in restrooms
 - Deep Cleaning by outside cleaning firm, particularly during flu season
 - Maintenance staff has a lot to do and extra help might be appreciated
 - Transparency and Accountability in Curriculum
 - Confusion lately about what is happening
 - Increased focus on Science and Computers
 - Curriculum for each class is made available, possibly posted on website or distributed to parents of each class
 - Facilitation of accountability
 - Reported back to parents at the end of each trimester as to where we are in curriculum and parents are aware as to what is happening
 - Power school
 - Want to encourage timely updates of grading and input
 - If we do these things we want to make sure they are audited
 - Technology Improvements
 - Can be aligned with plans already in motion
 - Dedicated resources with a curriculum focused on developing modern computing skills
 - Deploy modern office programs, Microsoft Office 365 and/or Google for Education
 - Both are free just require implementation
 - Would need wireless in the school
 - Would be a prerequisite to having ipads or laptop carts
 - Have a cart donated by district 123
 - Goal of 3 yrs to have 1 device per students
 - Discipline (resubmission form 2015)
 - Resubmission from 2015
 - Clarity of discipline rules, discipline matrix was provided
 - Would like response for next month if they are accepted or rejected

- Manna/Technology funds update
 - Do we have an update?
 - Mr. Theis can give us a little bit of information. Manna program paid for Accelerated Reader. Mrs. Conley got a new projector, so that cost of the projector and installation.
 - Annmarie said we saved \$3600 on installation because Frank and Anton did it, so that charge should not be on there
 - Can we get a funds report, we asked for one at last meeting.
 - Debbie would need to do that. She only gave verbal report.
 - Can we see 2015 report?
 - Parish Finance Committee gets the report
 - Detailed report
 - Would like to do Budget review at April meeting
 - Father Malcolm teacher salaries are going up and is healthcare.
- Teacher lists for next school year
 - Teacher observations are in Spring, informal and formal
 - Meets with each teacher
 - Examples, 8 areas of communication get rated on, 12 areas of supervisions, 7 areas in curriculum and 14 in teaching duties
 - Contracted teachers have been given intent to return form
 - Not a promise of employment just to see if anyone is having a change in their life such as retirement, moving etc
 - Before we can offer contracts arch diocese needs to approve budget, which would be by May
 - Posting of part time positions should be advertised more

Announcements

- None

Comments/Questions from the Floor

- Discussion ensued regarding NJHS
 - Discussion about NJHS activities at next month's meeting
- Discussion about boys receiving extra credit points
 - Mrs. Fiscella will update on JRH programs
- Cleaning
 - Recommendation to amend school cleaning

Motion to Adjourn: Teresa Munoz **Second:** AnnMarie Waters

Closing Prayer: Fr. Malcolm

Adjourned: 8:45 pm