

**Sacred Heart Area School
Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Mathews, and the opening prayer was led by SHAS Principal Jim Opelia. Those present were Jim Opelia, RoAnn Trout, Carol Lisson, Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez, Katie Noska, Elizabeth Mathews and Linus Koval. Fr. Joe Korf and John Reese were unable to attend the meeting.

Vice chairperson Elizabeth Mathews called the meeting to order. Katie moved to accept the agenda. Tracey seconded. Agenda was approved.

Meeting agenda was approved.

Minutes from the January 7, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Katie moved to accept the minutes. Linus seconded. January minutes were approved.

Recent Happenings

Marzano Training - The Sacred Heart Area School teachers continue their work on the theories and practices of Dr. Robert J. Marzano's "Art and Science of Teaching". Classroom teachers continue posting daily learning targets in all classrooms, discussing with students what their objective for the day is, as well as posting scales for students to reflect on what level of learning they are at. Teachers refer to the scales throughout the day, continually making students self-aware of their learning, and encouraging higher level thinking. Teachers are now planning weekly lessons that incorporate a performance scale to measure students growth throughout the week and facilitate objectives for students at various stages of growth. The Marzano training and implementation will provide a great deal of accountability for teachers and students to perform at higher levels and continually grow as individuals and a school.

Christ the King School hosted a Luke Spehar Concert on January 16th at 12:30 for SHAS students, as well as St Mary's of Long Prairie and St. Henry's of Perham. K-5 students went by bus to this event with their teachers. The concert lasted about an hour in the church. Luke played beautiful music, as well as making it fun for kids with stories and questions.

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) was observed across the nation January 25th-30th. The Wednesday Jan. 29th dance was enjoyed by several school children and their families, as was the entire week of fun themed dress up days and fun events. Monday was Super Hero Day with a Minute to Win-it competition for the kids. Tuesday was Camouflage Day where we especially remembered prayer in our daily lives, received an extra afternoon recess and drank hot cocoa. Wednesday was Pajama Day where we especially remembered to take the time to read for enjoyment. Thursday was Sunglasses Day with our all school Mass, and the staff shared in a potluck lunch together. On Friday we wrapped up the week with a fun Mismatch dress up day with a popcorn and movie at the end of the day.

The Sacred Heart Area School Carnival – The Sacred Heart Area School Carnival was held February 1st. It remained busy throughout its 4 hour duration. Thank you all for your part in making this event a success, including the Knights and Circle 6 for their biscuit and gravy breakfast! Total funds raised will be posted in the February 15th church bulletin.

Ipads for Sacred Heart Area School – The Catholic Foundation of the St. Cloud Diocese recently hosted an essay contest titled "How would you tell the "story of Jesus" using an iPad", for Catholic students of the diocese. Our SHAS 5th grade students participated individually as well as the 3rd grade as a group. In 5th grade, Morgan Becker and the 3rd grade class won two I pads for our school. These iPads were presented to the school by Alice Coudren from the Catholic Foundation during song practice Wednesday morning.

Upcoming School Events

Winter NWEA Testing – Weeks of February 2nd and February 9th

OLPA Testing – students in grades 3-5 will take the second round of MCA OLPA (optional local purpose assessment) on-line tests for math and reading later this month. The first test was taken in early December. The purpose of this test is for teachers to see the level of achievement of each student in 4 mathematic strands (areas) of the Minnesota Standards and focus on helping students where they are challenged. The final MCA math and reading tests, which count, will be taken the 3rd week of April. Our goal is to have SHAS students achieve at the highest level possible for their future, in alignment with the MN Standards.

February is “I Love to Read Month” – From Monday, February 10th-the first week of March (Dr. Seuss Week) we will be encouraging student reading with creative celebrations of children’s literature and providing reading incentives.

Friday Night Fish Fry Dinners Throughout Lent: This year’s fish fry dates would be Feb. 20 and 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27

Spring Blast – April 18th “Denim and Diamonds”

Fundraising Report

- 1) Katie Noska sent out a letter to those individuals/families who accepted the Centennial Year fundraising (Dollar-a-Day) fundraising cans. As of February 4, 2015, approximately \$11,000 has been collected. If everyone were able to submit the pledged Dollar-a-Day, over \$24,000 would be the total (67 cans x \$365). Several families are still planning on turning in funds with their cans. The school is soliciting help from the parents and the parish for individuals willing to serve on the playground committee. We currently have Larry Odden, John Reese and Katie Noska, but we would like more input from our parents and school/parish community.
- 2) The Carnival held on February 1, 2015 was a great success. The raffle tickets alone raised \$16,796. (Last year, the raffle tickets raised \$15,200.) Jim Opelia reported that the school will net over \$20,000.
- 3) The fish fry dinners will be held again this year during the 6 weeks of Lent. (Friday, Feb. 20 – Friday, March 27).
- 4) This years Spring Blast “Diamonds and Denim” will be held on Sunday, April 18. Requests for auction donations have already gone out.

Budget and Finance

Budget and Finance committee met on *Jan. 15, 2015* to discuss the school’s allocation, tuition increase (if any) and the pay scale for next year. Fr. Joe Korf let Principal Jim Opelia know that the school would be receiving \$4,000 less than last year and suggested that the school may need to consider an increase in tuition. Tuition for the single K-5 student will remain the same. However, the preschool will see an increase of \$1 more a day. Families with 2 children enrolled at the school will pay \$25 more a year. Families with 3 or more children enrolled at the school will pay an additional \$75 a year.

There was concern on the part of some board members that the lesser parish allocation may be due to increased fundraising on the part of the school. These individuals were worried that a trend may be established whereby even more fundraising would be necessary to keep the school viable. All Board members agree that any more fundraising would cause more families (and teachers?) to leave the school due to *burnout* (an ongoing workload overage which causes individuals to quit an organization’s initiative altogether). Board members agreed that we need to meet with Fr. Joe Korf to request the rationale for cutting the school’s allocation by \$4,000.

Personnel and Human Resources

Committee members Elizabeth and Tracey will meet with teachers this coming *Friday, February 6* at the end of their early-release staff development time to discuss the need for a classroom phone or phones, in addition to the dedication of December Craft Fair funds to the teachers for their classrooms. Jim Opelia would like to see the teachers determine where these funds are most needed; however, he will oversee the process if there is any conflict.

PR/ Marketing

Katie and Tracey met with Jim after the January 7 Board meeting to discuss further Public Relations and Marketing initiatives. It was decided that we need to develop a strategy for Preschoolers to connect with the Kindergarten teacher, and vice versa. This initiative could have a real impact on the number of preschoolers we see continuing on as full-time Kindergarten students. Jim, Katie and Tracey will meet with Ms. Rinke and Ms. Jonckozski to brainstorm some action plans.

Curriculum/ Technology

This committee met on *January 20 at 4 p.m.* after Budget and Finance had a chance to meet.

Jim Opelia and Linus Koval shared the results of school test scores. There was some discussion on how with having all staff understand and implement the Marzano classroom practices (regularly-stated objectives and focus on student growth), that we should see a really positive effect on student learning over time.

After taking a look at the Marzano program and its initiatives, the SHAS Advisory Board recommended that the school formally adopt the Marzano classroom practices into their ongoing instruction. There were no objections.

Mr. Opelia would like the school to develop a school wide enthusiasm for math in order to continue to improve upon our test scores, especially at the upper grade levels.

The St. Cloud Catholic Foundation awarded the school two more Ipads in response to an essay contest in which our students participated.

Old Business

A playground committee will be formed, so that planning can begin on what to do with the Centennial Dollar-a-Day proceeds. Volunteers to serve on the committee will be recruited from school staff, parents, alumni and parish members.

Sheila Becker and Sara Hoemberg will continue to head up the Spring Blast Committee.

New Business

The 2015-2016 SHAS budget was presented (see attached). Katie moved to accept. Tracey seconded. Budget approved.

The 201-2016 Teacher Salary schedule was presented (see attached). Katie moved to accept the new schedule. Linus seconded. The Salary Schedule was approved.

The 2015-2016 proposed preschool tuition change of \$1 more a day was presented. Carol moved to accept. Tracey seconded. Preschool increase approved.

Next meeting - THURSDAY, March 5, 2015 at 5 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m. - by Elizabeth Mathews. Motion made by Katie and seconded by Linus.

Closing prayer- led by Jim Opelia.

Respectfully submitted, Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez (2-13-15)