

**Sacred Heart Area School
Board Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by John Reese and the opening prayer was led by SHAS Principal Jim Opelia.

Those present were Fr. Joe, Jim Opelia, John Reese, RoAnn Trout, Carol Lisson, Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez, Katie Noska, Elizabeth Mathews and Linus Koval.

Chairperson John Reese called the meeting to order.

Meeting agenda was approved. Tracey moved to accept the agenda. Linus seconded. Approved. Minutes from the February 4, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Katie moved to accept the minutes. Carol seconded. February minutes were approved.

Parochial School Report

Recent Happenings

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

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

Lent - This is a time of year where Christians focus on their relationship with God through extra prayer, self-discipline, and good deeds. At Sacred Heart Area School the children and staff are celebrating Lent with weekly school wide prayer services, daily reflections in their classrooms, and individual acts of stewardship, fasting, and/or prayer.

Friday Night Fish Fries - continue throughout Lent: This year’s fish fry dates are Feb. 20 and 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27 This has become very popular in our community with some of the tastiest affordable meals produced by our school families in Sacred Heart Church of Staples. This series of dinners raised \$9,000 for our school last year.

Upcoming School Events

School Dance – March 18th

Preschool and Kindergarten Round Up will be held **March 24th**, in the school gymnasium. Please help us reach out to new families from our neighborhoods by spreading the word about our school. We invite parents with children from ages 3 to 5 years to attend this event.

Planning for Next Year - Our March 24th Preschool and Kindergarten Roundup is rapidly approaching. Invitations to Roundup will be going out to district families in the next few days, and new families will be enrolling their children for the 2015-2016 school year. Every year we send preregistration enrollment forms home to current SHAS families first, allowing them the first chance placement. These enrollment forms went home this week. Enrollment forms are important to the school for planning for the upcoming school year. This information determines staffing and the ordering of books and other school

supplies. When received, please complete and return these forms by March 20th, indicating your intentions for enrollment in the next school year. No registration is required until August.

Family Appreciation Night - Dance and Slumber Party - On April 24th at 6pm, in gratitude for the SHAS parents' hard work throughout the year, the school is hosting a family appreciation dinner, with complimentary pizza made by Giovanni's Pizza. We hope you can make it! The dance and slumber party will immediately follow, as rewards for the students' success with the carnival raffle.

Spring Blast Coming Soon! - The Sacred Heart Area School Spring Blast will be held Saturday, April 18, 2015 at SHAS with Mass at 4:00 PM, social at 5:00 PM, buffet style dinner 6:00-7:00 PM. The silent auction starts at 5:00 PM. The live auction will follow dinner. There is limited seating so purchase your tickets soon. Individual tickets are \$30 per person. **Tickets are available to purchase at Sacred Heart Area School.** We are now accepting donations for our live and silent auction! Please drop donations off at the school.

Upcoming Fieldtrips - K-5th grade will have a fieldtrip to Target Field in Minneapolis to watch the Minnesota Twins on May 7th! **Parents who would like to attend** this game would likely **have to carpool** since students and staff would max out the occupancy of the bus. Parents wishing to sit with us and get the group rate of \$11 per seat would need to decide and contact the school by the first week of April. **Preschoolers will be taking a field trip to the Brainerd Zoo** later in May. From our school dances, we have raised over \$1,500 towards all school fieldtrips to greatly reduce burdens on families and staff.

Committee Reports

Fundraising

- 1) The committee has been planning for the upcoming April 28 Spring Fling called "Denim and Diamonds".
- 2) The Fish Fry Dinners are in full swing with the last one planned for Friday, March 27, 2015.

Budget and Finance

Nothing to report

Personnel and Human Resources Elizabeth and Tracey met with the teachers during their early release on Friday, February 6. Elizabeth shared more on the Marzano Curriculum Model (which all of the teachers are following) and shared what she saw as very positive points to the program. The Advisory Board would like to formally encourage/recommend that our staff formally adopt this instructional "best practices" framework, as the teachers and principal very much see the benefits as well.

The staff also shared the need for a landline phone both in the break room and in the preschool room in order to better communicate with parents and with one another regarding the students' welfare.

Finally, Elizabeth and Tracey related that the staff was very much in favor of determining how each year's December Craft Fair funds would be spent for the classrooms. Fr. Joe indicated that

a separate fund cannot be set up; however, the teachers could certainly be given the authority to determine how those funds could be spent for the classroom. ShelaMcIlravy will keep track of the funds and how they have been spent. There is currently \$1725 in proceeds available from the 2013 and 2014 Teacher-Led Craft Fairs - (\$925 from 2013 and \$800 from 2014).

PR/ MarketingKatie and Tracey met with Jim and discussed the importance of communication and positive transition from preschool in to Kindergarten. The Preschool and Kindergarten round-up/ K-5 Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 24.

Curriculum/ Technology

Nothing to Report

Old Business1) A playground planning committee meeting was set for Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. The committee is still looking for members. Al Trout's name was added to the list of potential committee members.

New Business:

Summer Program InterestJim Opelia asked the advisory board how they felt about the school offering a summer program, as there were a couple of parents who inquired about the possibility. The group thought that this type of a program would evolve into more of a summertime *daycare* and decided NOT to recommend such a program for the following reasons:

Our school's focus should be on the traditional 9-month school year and not become diminished by the efforts of planning and running a summer program as well. The group also did not think it was wise to restrict the time we had available to take care of maintenance issues in the summertime. There was also mention of safe environment issues we would need to address if we were hiring extra help for the summertime.

Fr. Joe then took a few minutes to address the SHAS Advisory Board on the question of decreased Parish subsidies and whether they were related to the school's fundraising success in any way. Fr. Joe explained that the reason the Parish Finance Committee had to lower the school allotment was due to an unexpected drop in income. There is always an expected drop in parishioner donations over the summer months. However, this past year, the total income was \$17,000 behind on projected income, thus the church had to make cuts across all expenditure areas.

Next meeting - Wed.,April 1 at 5 p.m.**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.** - by John Reese. Motion made by Katie and seconded by Carol.**Closing prayer**- led by Jim Opelia.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez