

**Sacred Heart Area School
Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 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, Elizabeth Mathews and Linus Koval. Katie Noska was absent.

Chairperson John Reese called the meeting to order.

Meeting agenda was approved. Carol moved to accept the agenda. Linus seconded. Board approved.

Minutes from the March 5, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.

1) Principal Jim Opelia presented the Board with the Parochial School Report

Recent Happenings

Friday Night Fish Fries - continued throughout Lent:

School Dance – March 18th

Preschool and Kindergarten Round Up was held **March 24th**, in the school gymnasium. Attendance was down for this event, however we do have 11 students for kindergarten and 17 for preschool signed up so far for next year. We anticipate many more to sign up yet for preschool, as next year's 3 year old population is the largest age group the district has in its system.

Spring Blast- The Sacred Heart Area School Spring Blast was held Saturday, April 18, 2015.

Family Appreciation Night - Dance and Slumber Party – was held on April 24th at 6pm, in gratitude for the SHAS parents' hard work throughout the year, the school hosted a family appreciation dinner, with complimentary pizza made by Giovanni's Pizza. The dance and slumber party immediately followed as rewards for the students' success with the carnival raffle.

DHS License Review- Our DHS licenser stopped by last week for a scheduled inspection, which is done biannually. Things were in order, with some minor detailed direction given for the future. We were informed that a new law will require our school to be inspected annually.

First Communion - was held at Sacred Heart last Saturday at 5pm.

MNSAA Accreditation Kickoff Meeting – I attended this meeting yesterday in St. Cloud at the diocesan office with the MNSAA director, Sarah Mueller to review the upcoming steps to be taken for reaccreditation, which we are due to have done in 2017. At this point we need to commit to this as a school and send a letter of intent to MNSAA.

Appreciations – in the last two weeks several groups of people were recognized in Secretary Appreciation, Principal Appreciation, and Teacher Appreciation Days. Tonight we show our appreciation to parents for all they do for us at our AAA performances.

Teacher Contracts - Five classroom teachers signed contracts for the upcoming school year. We have two teachers who will not be coming back, but will be moving on toward new horizons. *Ms. Jonckowski (kindergarten) and Ms. Rinke (preschool)* We are grateful for their years of service and wish them the very best in the future. These position openings have been posted on **edpost** and will likely be filled before the end of the school year.

Upcoming School Events

Upcoming Fieldtrips - K-5th grade will have a fieldtrip to Target Field in Minneapolis to watch the Minnesota Twins tomorrow, May 7th. **Preschoolers will be taking a field trip to the Brainerd Zoo** later in May.

Upcoming Graduations:

Preschool Concerts May 13th and 14th

Kindergarten May 20th

Fifth Grade May 22nd

End of Year - The last day of school will be held May 27th, as a half day of school.

2) Principal Jim Opelia shared two letters of resignation from our Preschool Teacher, Heather Rinke, and our Kindergarten Teacher, Vanessa Jonckowski. We are grateful for their service; especially to Heather Rinke for having such an incredible impact on the growth of the preschool program at SHAS. Linus moved to accept the resignations. Carol seconded. Board approved.

3) The SHAS Advisory Board then met with members of the parish responsible for the school garage sale: Becky Hasselberg, Orv Meyer, Marge Meyer, Karla Miller and Barb Howard. The parish members expressed concern over the discussed plans by the board to possibly change the date of the sale to earlier in the summer. The board once again shared that the discussion on changing the date was due to the difficulty the prolonged set up and sale causes the staff in not having the month of August to prepare for the start of school. The parish members expressed the importance of keeping it on the same weekend as the Chili cook-off, as it has become a tradition and the main reason why many come to the town for that weekend in the first place. NOTE: This coming year it should not be as big of a problem because the chili cook-off and start of school are two weeks apart. However, **the board will pursue communication with Barb Kline and the Chamber of commerce to see whether the Chili cook-off might be moved to the *first weekend of August*** (especially now that the car show is no longer, which might have been what mandated that it be the third weekend in August).

REQUESTED ADDITION TO THE MINUTES:

Note that in the Fundraising Report from the Dec. 3, 2014 SHAS Board Meeting minutes, there was considerable discussion and general consensus that something needed to be done:

Garage Sale will be held during the Chili cook-off weekend in August of 2015, because there are two weeks between that weekend and the start of school (which makes it a bit less disruptive to School Staff in preparing for the new school year). However, starting in 2016, the garage sale will be held during the last weekend of June (with no additional requests to volunteers), so that it is not so disruptive to the beginning of the school year. Advertising for the change will happen during the 2015 garage sale.

Although there is no record of an official motion during the above Dec. 2014 board meeting, there was general agreement among the board that the sale either move date, location or both by 2016. We as a board will help the garage sale committee to make these changes as best we can. The requested change is for the following reasons (submitted by E.M. on 5/10/2015):

- *The garage sale set-up and event make it stressful for staff to work on preparing for new school year (noise, clutter in work space, distracting and unprofessional).*
- *The sale preparation is not an appropriate environment for new staff to orient themselves in preparation for new school year.*

- *The month-long set-up and actual sale take away valuable time that building/grounds and maintenance need to recover/rejuvenate the building for the new school year.*
- *The garage sale does not allow us to showcase the school in the best way to prospective or new students and families.*
- *The garage sale limits teachers' time and ability to set up their classrooms ready for open house or first day of school.*

3) Jim Opelia gave a **brief update on the playground committee's discussions** so far. They discussed the *improbability* of providing any additional green space due to the space constraints of needed parking. They also discussed the *probability* of upgrading the playground to small pea rock as it is cleaner than sand and more kid-friendly than wood chips.

4) Principal Jim Opelia and 5th grade teacher RoAnn Trout shared information about the new **"Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum** that the teachers have been studying and exploring. They are convinced that the program is a very appropriate and progressive way to teach cursive handwriting skills to our children. Elizabeth moved to accept the new handwriting curriculum. Linus seconded. The board approved.

5) The board finally discussed the **need to recruit more SHAS Board members** for the coming year, as three members are due to complete their terms of service. Linus will consider serving for another year. Principal Opelia suggested that we look for 1 candidate to serve for a 2 year term and 2 candidates willing to serve a 3 year term. The Board agreed that we should have the parish vote on nominated candidates in the coming month, so that they could begin their service at the June meeting. Thus, **the Board will need to seek nominations in the coming week.***

There was no time to go into Committee Reports as it was time to attend the AAA Parent Appreciation night program over at the school, which was scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

Next meeting - Wed., June 3 at 5 p.m. Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 p.m. - by John Reese. Motion made by Tracey and seconded by Linus. Closing prayer- led by Jim Opelia.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez

** NOTE: The Board suggested we nominate two individuals, Monica Coles and Jackie Stevens; however, these two were voted in at the AAA Parent Appreciation as new Home and School members, so the Board will have to nominate other individuals for the SHAS Advisory Board.*