

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

The meeting was called to order by Katie, and the opening prayer was led by Fr. Joe Korf. Those present were Jim Opelia, RoAnn Trout, Carol Lisson, Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez, Katie Noska, Michael Cole, Chris Perius, Tom Brichacek and Fr. Joe Korf.

Chairperson Katie Noska called the meeting to order. Tom moved to accept the agenda. Tracey seconded. Agenda was approved.

Tracey moved to accept the October minutes (submitted by Tom Brichacek). Chris P. seconded. Minutes were approved.

### **Recent Happenings**

**Marzano training** was held for all classroom teachers at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Pierz, October 9<sup>th</sup>

**Grandma Lucille's Funeral** was held October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Children dressed in uniforms and stood on the sidewalk across the street from the church releasing blue balloons as she was carried out. This was shared on the front page of the Staples World and on video on the school's website and Facebook page. Memorial donations for Grandma Lucille were donated to the school in excess of \$2,500.

**Workathon** was held October 14<sup>th</sup>. **Our school raised \$7,000.**

**Education of MN Convention** will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school from October 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Home and School family fun event** at Tim and Amy Rutten's on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Halloween Costume Dance** will be held October 28<sup>th</sup>

**Volunteer Appreciation Lunch** was held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was high. There was a garage sale wrap up meeting afterwards. Marge Meyer officially stepped down as chair. We commended her for all she has done to make this fundraiser takeoff and help the school over the past seven years. The principal announced the new date for Railroad Days as the weekend of August 25<sup>th</sup>. The chamber did not change the weekend to an earlier date. It was made clear that the garage sale would be allowed to continue during Railroad Days and it was a much needed fundraiser for the school. It was also stressed what a tremendous burden it is on the school to have the sale take place at this time of year, and it particularly taxes the staff psychologically. Also, that this has nothing to do with how much garage sale volunteers are appreciated for their work.

**Halloween Parties** in classrooms on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming School Events

**MNSAA Conference** will be held this Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> in Eagan, MN. Jim Opelia will be attending.

**Veterans Day Program** will be held in the school gym on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am with guest speaker Jim Vollegraf.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held from 3:30-8:00pm on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Program** will be held December 16<sup>th</sup>

## Committee Reports

**Fundraising Report** (Carol L. and Katie N.): Once again there was considerable brainstorming regarding the Annual Chili Cook-Off Garage Sale and whether there may be an alternate venue for this event, so as to not pressure school staff and teachers who are trying to prepare for the new school year. The SHAS Advisory board was still not able to come up with a feasible conflict resolution, as the Chamber of Commerce was unwilling to move the date any earlier in August.

There is a Carnival meeting scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. Carol will attend as the SHAS Advisory Board representative.

**Budget and Finance** (Tom B. and Chris P.) No report this month

**Personnel and Human Resources** (Michael C. and Tracey K-J) No report this month. Jim will let us know when it will be appropriate to meet with teachers... possibly after the next early out?

**PR/Mktg./Dev.** (Tom B. and Tracey K-J) The PR/ Marketing/ Development Committee met with Jim Opelia on Monday, Nov. 2 at 4:30 p.m.

One service opportunity we currently have which serves the school well in PR is our Adopt-A-Highway segment between Motley and Staples. Another service event is the annual Work-A-Thon. For the October 2015 Work-a-Thon our SHAS school community cleaned up at Pine Grove Park as well as at the Veterans Park.

Tom Brichacek suggested that we establish another service opportunity for the students at the local food shelf, which could use assistance in unloading and stocking with the monthly food delivery. The fourth and fifth graders would assist unloading the truck and stocking the shelves on the first Friday of the month.

We determined that the Halloween Dance would be an appropriate time to invite our public elementary students and their families to the school. [Michael C. also reminded the group that there was a chance that Lakewood Health System would work in conjunction with SHAS in providing a *healthy families, healthy community* event. He will investigate this further.]

Tracey suggested that we try and create an attractive poster using the online WORDL program and the *100 reasons to attend Sacred Heart Area School* we utilized for the Centennial T-shirts. Katie will have Sandy send Tracey the digital text, so that we can experiment with how the project might look. These posters could be posted in businesses around the area and in community churches.

The PR and Marketing Committee will meet again on Thurs., Jan. 7 at which time they will discuss the March 22 Open House and Round-Up.

**Curriculum/ Technology** (Chris P. and Michael C) No report this month.

### **Old Business**

Jim Opelia presented the board with two goals for the year:

- 1) *The School Advisory Board and Administration will Shield the School from Teacher Turnover Issues* by instilling a greater enjoyment for teachers to be employed at Sacred Heart Area School and by not allowing teachers to break contracts in the summer months.
- 2) *The School will continue to improve its Academic Programs to ensure its Vitality into the Future* by continuing the study and practices of Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching in Classrooms and by enhancing faculty professional development with PLCs.

A Playground Improvements Update was given by Principal Jim Opelia. [A complete report was also communicated to the parish community in the November 29, 2015 church bulletin]:

This past summer, we were able to replace existing playground play area sand base with a more attractive pea rock base, landscape for drainage, and create a grassed in area equipped with a sprinkler system to eliminate the existence of sand burs and other obnoxious weeds. So far everything is in place, with the exception of the sod which we opted to hold off rolling out until the first week of May 2016. Once the sod is laid, we will furnish the area with picnic table(s), benches and trash receptacles to create a more pleasant, healthier atmosphere for children and their families at play. Youngbauer's Landscaping of Verndale donated the entire sprinkling system installation expense, while GB Directional of Sebeka donated the cost of horizontal drilling under the street. Sportsman Plumbing donated the labor of hooking up the sprinkler system to the school's water supply which involved drilling through two feet of concrete foundation.

At the end of this summer, parents of Sacred Heart Area School spruced up the playgrounds for the beginning of the school year; trimming the trees and fence lines, removing unsightly and unnecessary barriers, and replacing them with flower beds. They painted dull looking furnishings, and prepped for and installed a wood-chip border around the far perimeter of the basketball court. Later, members of the Knights of Columbus added additional black dirt and installed a fence defining the boundary between the large playground and the parish parking area. All of this donated help saved the school \$6,000 in expenses. Cash donations amounted to \$13,000 from community members in the Centennial Playgrounds Fund Drive and \$2,000 from the Staples Motley Area Community Initiative Foundation. Thank you all!

In conjunction with this year's MNSAA Standards/Accreditation Process, the SHAS Advisory Board and Principal will finish working on the *Reflective Narrations of Compliance* in the school

library on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a Carnival planning meeting going on at the same time in the school's main gym at 5:30 p.m.

The Teacher Retention/Teacher Contracts Issue was tabled to the December 2 SHAS Advisory Board meeting as Fr. Joe had to leave this meeting due to a conflict.

**New Business** RoAnn Trout shared that the teachers and school staff would like to plant a memorial tree for Grandma Lucille Koval in the spring. Chris Perius will secure an attractive Maple Tree for this purpose. A decision on where to place this tree will be made in the spring when the sod and other plantings take place on the playground.

**Next meeting** – Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 5 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:47 p.m.** - by Katie Noska.

**Closing prayer-** led by Jim Opelia.

Respectfully submitted, Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez