**St. Gerard Majella**

**School Board Meeting**

**August 9, 2022**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Fr. M. Grosch (Pastor), C. Guthrie (Principal), L. Gintz (Asst. Principal), Fr. C. Rubie (Associate Pastor); K. Francis (President), B. Lorentz (Vice President), L. Partridge (APT President), M. Karl, P. Chandra, T. Callahan, E. Purdy, M. Wardlaw, A. Weissler, J. Kendrick, T. Emig, and M. Sheppard; Via Zoom: J. Tuffli.

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. M. Grosch

**Pastor’s Report:** Fr. M. Grosch

SGM has received the results of the All Things New Disciple Maker Index and Education Surveys. The DMI Survey summary has gone out to the parish, and the Education Survey summary will go out soon. The All Things New initiative continues to move forward. Archdiocese priests will be attending a meeting to learn about the next steps going forward, after which, the Archdiocese will start hosting listening sessions at parishes. There are 14 planning area, with 3 models per area.

SGM has hired a new youth minister, Grace Makowski. As she is finishing her degree in education, she will start part-time in September and will transition to full-time in January. She will have an active role within the school and PSR.

**Principal’s Report:** C. Guthrie

Faculty and staff have had a busy summer, but an “easy” busy as COVID and COVID safeguards have not been the dominating topic. The building was painted, wiring has been installed to support upgraded internet, and new clocks have been installed.

The total number of students enrolled is 429. We have 242 families in the school. SGM is welcoming 6 new families (8 new students) in grades 1-8, and 23 new families (24 new students) in kindergarten.

The 2022-3 coordinators are on the ball, and the new teachers are excited and have brought a fresh presence and energy to the school. We do not have a computer teacher as of yet; however, we have filled all of the other openings which is great considering the number of positions still available at other public and private schools in the area.

Ms. Mooney has suffered from strains to her vocal cords, which has left her imposing significant restrictions upon her talking. She has been saving her voice for the school year and has restructured her class to help rest her voice. If you need to speak with Ms. Mooney, please email her. The Christmas Concert is returning.

A coding class will likely happen, with Ms. Guthrie likely proctoring the class while the students work independently. We are looking at various programs.

SGM will continue to follow the recommendations from the CDC and local health organizations with respect to COVID restrictions. However, based upon information and belief, those restrictions will be greatly reduced and/or lifted and it is believed that a student testing positive will not have to quarantine but will have to mask while at school and test after day 5.

**A. Principal Report:** L. Gintz

Preschool has 63 students which is an increase of 6 from last year. This is the first year for the full day option. Preschool will eat lunch with the Kindergarteners in Liguori Hall; however, they will not have the option to buy lunch at this time. Preschoolers will join the afternoon dismissal and will be available to be retrieved at 2:50 in Mary’s Garden.

Pre-K starts on August 22 and 3/4s start on August 23.

SGM is hosting Julie Smith, a professor at Webster University, who will be presenting a speech on social media on September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

**APT Report:**  L. Partridge

Immediately prior to the school board meeting, ATP hosted a meeting for the room parents. Hoping that Fall Fest Parent parties return this year.

The first ATP meeting for the school year is August 30 at 7:00 p.m.

**New Business:** K. Francis

K. Francis created a sharable digital file containing the handbook, bylaws, etc. available for reference for all school board members.

Proposed changes to the school uniform policy, and particularly, the length of shorts for girls on dress down days, was discussed and presented to school administration.

A. Weissler requested that the administration send out the sign-up genius emails in the evening rather than in the morning to allow working parents equal access to the preferable conference times. Further, it was discussed whether some of the conference times could be in the evening.

Communication with respect to which students will be participating accelerated math was discussed, and any lack thereof was attributed to changing of the middle school math teacher.

**Old Business:** K. Francis

School Board meeting dates: 08/09/22, 10/11/22, 12/13/22, 02/07/23, and 05/09/23.

Please advise the respective committee chairperson which committee you wish to serve.

**Committee Reports:**

**Resource:**  B. Lorentz

None.

**Marketing:** P. Chandra

Will send out letters to the new teachers and to the school community introducing the School Board and to explain our function.

P. Chandra is working with K. Hicks to set up a school board booth at Fall Fest again. It was a success last year, and we sold a fair amount of spirit wear. A discussion was held about other opportunities to sell spirit wear to the school community and the parish as a whole. It was noted that prior efforts after mass were less than successful, but Father Grosch believed that COVID and a desire to distance oneself may have contributed to that and believes that a renewed effort to build up community in the parish and around Mass will help.

**Anti-Bullying:** M. Wardlow

Encouraged by the number of responses from the school community about the school and the Board addressing bullying. M. Wardlow will be hosting a meeting at his house to discuss how to focus the committee.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. C. Rubie