

**St. Gerard Majella  
School Board Meeting  
October 12, 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Fr. D. Skillman (Pastor), C. Guthrie (Principal), L. Gintz (Asst. Principal), S. Veninga (President), K. Francis (Vice President), A. Eakle, J. Reuter, P. Chandra, T. Callahan, B. Lorentz, E. Purdy, J. Tuffli, M. Wardlaw, S. Wahl (APT President)

**Excused:** M. Karl

**Opening Prayer:** S. Veninga

**Principal's Report:** C. Guthrie

Field trips are returning and being planned; however, transportation costs remain high and difficult to arrange.

Planning to remove the plexiglass in the cafeteria in November to allow for the return of serving lines and trays.

There will be some additional EANS funding available in November. SGM will receive less than in the past due to the amount of free and reduced lunch.

Benchmarking for the entire school has commenced.

8th grade is beginning to submit applications to high school.

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be going to Camp Lakewood on November 3-5.

Invitations to 85 families for Kindergarten/Preschool Open House were sent out. Open House is November 14 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers from the School Board and APT are needed.

Implementation of Theology of the Body (TOB) has commenced. TOB is a philosophy to teach the children to love themselves and all of God's creatures. TOB compliments Virtues and RULER.

Learning gaps have been discovered in primary. Teachers are observing speech and language issues. These issues were also noted through benchmarking and recent speech and language evaluations. Additionally, issues with problem solving, stamina, and behavior at Church were noted. Parents need to take a more active role at home to work on these issues, including reading at home.

8<sup>th</sup> grade performed very well on the standardized testing.

In the month of November, use #GiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday

Possibility of clubs returning in January.

**Pastor's Report:** Fr. D. Skillman

TOB comes from the teachings of John Paul II. It explores the idea of what does it mean to be human. Humans are made for love and to find fulfillment with loving relationships. The teachings can be as basic as love yourself for the younger children to more complex issues for older students about the sexual morality of the Church.

Masses have moved back to the Church, and the reviews are good.

There will be a BBQ on October 23 following 5:00 p.m. mass to say goodbye and celebrate Fr. Skillman as he leaves SGM.

Rev. Michael Grosch from St. Michael the Archangel will be installed as the new pastor. For a while, he will be the only priest at SGM. Fr. Bryant and Fr. Molini will return to help say Mass in the time-being.

SGM will remain at the top of Fr. Skillman's prayers.

**Asst. P.'s Report:** L. Gintz

November 14 open house for Kindergarten and Pre-School

Survey went out to pre-school parents, including inquiries as to full day options.

**APT Report:** S. Wahl

Feast of SGM is this Friday, October 16, 2021.

Trunk or Treat returns on October 29, 2021. Return pizza orders to M. Peterson.

Grandparents Day has been postponed until the Spring.

Discussion on raising APT fee from \$25 (where it has been for 10 years) to \$30. Costs have increased.

**Old Business:** S. Veninga

Handbook has been updated.

Bylaws will be updated in the future (See, Mktg. Comm. Report)

A. Eakle has secured one bid with respect to sunshades for the two decks overlooking the athletic fields. She is waiting on one final bid to be submitted. It is believed that the cost of said sunshades will be around \$20,000. Fr. Skillman noted an Archdiocese moratorium on capital improvements in excess of \$25,000.

**New Business:**

S. Veninga

P. Chandra inquired as to the requirement for intermediate and middle school teachers to report on children's progress via PowerSchool. C. Guthrie indicated that they are to make comments on a weekly basis, and she will talk with the teachers again to make these comments. Discussion was held regarding ways to communicate with your child's teachers and how to assist the teachers and the students in being successful at school.

Mask guidelines –the school board discussed concerns raised by a school family regarding continued masking in the school. The school board was reminded that it is an advisory board, and its function is to advise and support the pastor and school administration. The mask guidelines are based upon recommendations made by the CDC, the State of Missouri, and St. Louis County.

There was a discussion regarding the Fr. Huber's sabbatical and some reporting from a blog about same. Fr. Skillman indicated that the Archdiocese manages all communications on this matter. It was suggested that if anyone has any questions about Fr. Huber, they contact the Archdiocese.

**Committee Reports:**

**Resource:** K. Francis

No report

**Marketing:** J. Reuter

Article VIII, Section 6 of the School Board Bylaws have been amended and submitted to the Board for Approval. The change to the Bylaws clarifies the role of the marketing committee to support the school administration in its efforts to market and publicize SGM.

The combined efforts of K. Hicks and the School Board to sell school spirit merchandise at Fall Fest was a success.

**Future Business:** S. Veninga

Next meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021

**Closing Prayer:** S. Veninga

Following the close of the meeting, a celebration of Father Skillman was held to thank him for his service to SGM and wish him well on his next journey.