

Koraes Elementary School
11025 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2025

Opening of Meeting:

- **Call to Order:** Liz Christofylakis at 6:33p.m.
- **Prayer:** Liz Christofylakis
- **Roll Call:**
In attendance: Liz Christofylakis, Beth Lind, James Galanis, Marissa Demir, Connie Cassiani, Jim Stavrou,
Not present: Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, , Dean Korolis, Elliot Danos, Dr. Maria Douros, George Argires

School Board Chair Opening Remarks:

- March 20, 2025 Approval of Minutes: approved
- Happy to see the Mirofores on Holy Friday~ 17 girls

Community Comments (if applicable):

- None

Head of School Report: Beth Lind (interim)

- Current enrollment: 195
- Thank you to parent volunteers for a nice Lenten Breakfast last week and to the parents who volunteered for Book Fair and Grad Pics for Kindergarten
- Career Day is tomorrow. Three - 30 minute presentations will be held in the afternoon for grades 3-8. Six careers are being represented: photographer, psychiatrist, carpenter, canine officer, optometrist, and attorney.
- Yesterday, Fr. Nicholas blessed the new playground. We celebrated the hard work of the students and had high energy for the upcoming FUN RUN! We were honored to have a special appearance from Spiderman. The students are able to be on the playground for the remainder of the school year. A fence will be installed prior to the start of the new school year.
- The inaugural Track and Field team had their first meet yesterday at Chicago Christian High School against 7 other schools. The girls competed very well and the boys had a few events where the athlete placed.
- Received recognition status from ISBE in mid-March

Staffing:

Facilities/Buildings & Grounds:

Curriculum & Instruction & Programming:

- Review of updated Michael Heggerty: word work in preschool
- Reviewing updated GOMATH! and pre algebra series; meetings scheduled for 5/5 & 5/23
- Professional development participation by two staff members:
 - IL ASCD Need High Math Achievement? Jo Boaler Shares How!
ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development)
- Recently extended trip grades 7 & 8: Washington, DC- great trip. Students got to see the people in action, great tour guide, had a great time
- Book Fair & Talent show auditions coming up
 - Talent show on May 21st
- End of year field trips:
 - P3-4 are going to The Forge
 - 5-8 are going to Medieval Times.
 - Moved away from the Great America field trip due to safety and some kids cannot go on all of the rides.
- Monday-Stavrou Sports Day; Tuesday-Spiritwear Day
- Map Testing will begin the week of May 5th and conclude the week of May 16th.
- The Koraes Handbook is a work in progress. It is being aligned to the IPA (Illinois Principal Association) handbook
- Six new families across PK3, Prekindergarten, and Kindergarten have registered for the 25/26 school year;
- Registration 2025-26
 - PK 3 8
 - PreK 15
 - Kinder 17
 - First 20
 - Second 23
 - Third 11
 - Fourth 20
 - Fifth 12
 - Sixth 10
 - Seventh 13
 - Eighth 12

Total Enrollment 161; last meeting's enrollment numbers 138
- Several families have verbally expressed registration, however, have not followed through on completing the registration. The price of registration goes up on May 1 to \$400 per child and there are no more family discounts.

Strategic Plan:

- Annual Crisis Management Meeting was held today with the local agencies, Koraes teachers, and church representatives. Safety procedures were reviewed and updates provided. This meeting is held annually with police department, fire department, Koraes and church representatives. All stakeholders had an opportunity to provide updates. It was made known by the PHPD that public schools receive life - safety money that is used to update buildings as well as retrofit those buildings. We do not receive those funds.

OLD BUSINESS:

- KFSA
 - A meeting was held where the draft of the bylaws were presented to be reviewed. Bylaws were sent in advance and suggestions and commentary were taken into account. Clarification was made as to what letter of good standing meant, that KFSA is organizationally based, and an elimination of unnecessary words was made to the bylaws.
 - Any bylaw changes will be effective for the 25-26 school year.
 - Motion made by Marissa Demir and was second by Connie Cassiani for voting on passing the bylaws. The motion passes as they stand and are no longer a draft.
 - The School Board wants to make it clear that any organization that acts as a fundraising arm, operates under the church's 501c (3)
 - The School Board is a committee of the Parish Council, whereas the KFSA is a subcommittee of the School Board. All monies collected is under the parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen and not as the individual organization (i.e. GOYA, KFSA). The only exception to that is the Philoptochos because of the national charter. KFSA will never operate independently but will be a fundraising arm of the school to help support staff and the community. All participants of the KFSA are doing it in good faith as a supporter of Koraes School. The School Board is the policy making body, not the KFSA. There was also a successful nomination process
- April 28th-the third KFSA meeting will be held in person and via Zoom.
 - The revisions made includes the following: only those who were fully registered by March 1st are able to run for KFSA; nomination process was a two nomination process and acceptance of nomination;
 - All nominees will speak and introduce themselves and the grade their child/children are in, as well as the reason why for the position they have been nominated for.
 - Electronic voting is open for a 5 day period. When the voting process occurs, if you aren't registered for 25/26 school year, your vote will not be counted. Once voting has ended, each winning candidate will be notified and must accept their role, in writing. The following week, an announcement will be made introducing the new KFSA board
 - Any voting done regarding the distribution of funds will be done electronically.
- The School Board wants to assure everyone how important it is to have a parent organization, get it up and running and to give it the best possible outcome for success.
- Summer Steam Camp will be held for two weeks instead of three. It is open to everyone. Parents are encouraged to register their children. Registration fees go up on May 1st.

- Fun Run: Playground ribbon cutting was yesterday. Work on the fence will be completed but there is a delay. The person working on the fence project gave us the best quote and will be donating his labor. He will be replacing and adding the new fencing around the playground.
 - Makerspace was painted on Monday, April 21st. It looks very bright and airy. Interior cabinetry will be removed and new cabinetry will be installed. This will take place during the summer. The next phase of the Makerspace will be ordering furniture, materials, etc., and the last part will be adding the stations-lego station, 3d printer.
 - The 2025 Fun Run will be held on May 8th. This event is a great way to build comradery and school spirit among parents and students. The money raised will be for security enhancements, which was voted on by parents for this year's fun run. Different enhancements will be done throughout the school. Examples of such enhancements include, the doors to be double fobbed-church lobby, soccer door, playground door, side patio door, classrooms to have panic fobs. If entire Fun Run funds are raised or more then more security enhancement will be added, such as repositioning and adding cameras, updating phones in classrooms to be able to dial out to 911. Connie and Gerry have met with a security company to discuss safety and priority of such enhancements.
 - The School Board along with the Parish Council are also in the process of applying for a grant thru Non Profit Security Grant which gives religious institutions up to \$150,000 but will not know if grant has been approved until July.
- ❖ The School Board went into a closed session at 7:14 p.m. for a personnel meeting discussion with notice that the open session would resume right after.
 - ❖ Open session resumed at 7:28 p.m.
 - No vote on what was discussed
- In the previous School Board meeting, the parish addressed that the existing School Board will be terminated as of June 6th, 2025 and a new School Board will begin on June 7th. The current school board did nothing wrong to be terminated. Jim Stavrou, Parish Council President, stated that a school board term expires at the end of the school year unlike the parish council which expires at the end of the year and a new board begins in January. He also stated that the only body that is elected is the Parish Council and members of the School Board are appointed. The new board will not have any parents of students attending Koraes Elementary School but will have a mix of individuals with varying professions and backgrounds. Several people have been approached with some accepting to be on the School Board. James Galanis will remain on the Koraes School Board. The list will be finalized and in the next school board meeting the new members will be announced. Training of the new board will occur throughout the summer. If something needs to be voted on, the Parish Council will serve as interim School Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fundraising:

Closing comments:

Meeting close with prayer: Liz Christofylakis

End of meeting at 7:37 p.m.