

Open School Board Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 2021

Members present: Elizabeth Christofylakis, Jim Galanis, Dean Korolis, Krysta Prvoznik, Elaine Simadis
Fr. Tom, Beth Lind, George Argires, George Chipain, Jim Stavrou

Meeting called to order at 6:32
Fr Tom opened the meeting with prayer

Principal's Report:

- Enrollment is 170
- Coming off a busy month: three field trips: The Forge, The Center and the firestation. Thank you parent volunteers for chaperoning and making the events safe for students.
- Scarecrow decorating contest: grades PK - 5 participated in the event. This was our third year of participating. We appreciate the invitation from Hickory Hills.
- MAP testing concluded later than usual due to absences and the training of students on the chromebooks.
- Scores were sent home last week.
- We have started LiveSchool, our behavior management system. Students and staff have received orientation.
- Student Council is sponsoring Healthy Choices Week (Red Ribbon Week).
- We celebrated OXI Day with students in grades 1/2/3/4 & 8. The students and staff were thrilled to have guests attend. Students viewed from their classrooms. We are very thankful to the Greek Dept for the organization and execution. The event was also live streamed. Family as far away as Greece were able to virtually attend.
- This week concludes with Fall Festival parties, bowling field trip for middle school and hot lunch.
- MAP scores for the primary grades are exceptionally high in both reading and math
 - 23/24 kindergarten students scored high & high average in math
 - 1/24 kindergarten student scored average in math
 - 21/24 kindergarten students scored high & high average in reading
 - 3/24 kindergarten students scored average in reading
 - 20/21 first graders scored high and high average in math
 - 16/21 first graders scored average in reading
 - 1/21 first grader scored below benchmark average
- These scores indicate the having students attend preschool makes a difference at the start of the school year. Teachers are able to attend to the curriculum standards immediately in both content areas. Last year our kindergarten students took the end of the year math test in January and scored exceptionally well therefore we moved the students to first grade standards. Their fall scores indicated that there was retention of skills and strategies.

- This is the first trimester we have had the lowest number of students receiving interventions.
- We have recognized that there are some social & emotional standards that need to be addressed. Students are taking longer to acclimate to peers and classroom expectations in the kindergarten classes. The teachers are implementing Second Step our SEL curriculum. However, note that their stamina during the second half of the day is wearing. We have taken a deeper look at our Greek curriculum and standards in kindergarten. We have many children without much Greek background in the language. Therefore, we are looking at more theme based instruction and activities because of the inability to run centers the way we used to due to COVID and movement around the room.
- There have been ongoing issues with Powerschool. Working on resolving Algebra now.
- Working on hiring a replacement for the middle school math teacher. Mrs. Ruggiero is the substitute teacher until winter break. Interview scheduled next week.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 22 and November 23. Parents will have the opportunity to choose virtual or in-person. Monday is early release to begin conferences at 2:00.

KPTA report: Connie Cassiani

- Thanked Koraes families for the donations for the silent auction baskets, help with the Fall Fest parties and Trunk or Treat (co-chairs, Gloria L and Maria D), Book Fair was held this week on Wednesday and Thursday. Thanksgiving Feast will be held on November 9
- Wreath sale money was due on October 22. Will take late orders
- Next meeting will be held on November 4 in person in the church lobby.

Gala Report:

- Dollar amount: \$81,000
- Raffle tickets didn't sell as much as the past however sold over \$12,000
- Thank you to all who helped...Connie, Kyrsta...
- Planning and executing during a COVID year...venue, set-up etc.
- Thank you to JK Fiore balloons, face painting
- Thank you to Katherine's Closet which serves 5013c organizations for big events with decor - make a donation. Encourage families to use this establishment.
- Next year's Gala is 10/29/22

The School Board is considering hosting a Parent University for volunteering and fundraising. These two components to a private school are vital to the success of the organization. Look for more information after the first of the year.

Kyrsta noted that building a strong alumni network through an email to share it's a different school than it was 10-15 years ago. It's important for our alumni to get reconnected with Koraes to support the future of the school.

The School Board would like to begin working on selecting a vendor for a rebuild of the school website. Our current site is volunteer run. Finding and vetting out vendors will take some time and the School Board would like for the community to send any companies their way that other businesses have had success with. The entire in depth process may take up to 1.5 years to build with a variety of stakeholders involved. The goal would be to unveil sometime in 2023 targeting after the first of the year in time for registration for the 23-24 school year. The School Board will be seeking input from staff, teachers, parents and community members.

COVID Cares Act

The administration, Fr. Tom and School Board Chair met with members of the NorthShore Labs to bring cheek swab testing to Koraes. A parent referred this company who is also working with the Greek American Nursing home and many other schools. This testing is staffed by the agency and we will have an opt- in and once opt-in an opt out if parent/staff change their mind. The purpose of the testing is not to eliminate masks and quarantine mandates (as these rules are set up by ISBE/IDPH/CDC). But to preemptively test and possibly catch asymptomatic cases. This will be done one time weekly and parents may have the results emailed. No medical information will be shared. Insurance information will be asked for however, not required. Students and staff who are out may use this weekly testing to shorten quarantine depending on the situation. Correspondence will be sent to families and staff on Friday, October 29.

Security

Security and safety projects were reviewed. The technology department from the Parish is working on installation of fobs for both the school and the parish. The school board has been working on a statement to share with families to be included in the family handbook and the staff handbook. The Chairman read through the document that was sent to the attorney. FERPA was also reviewed. Pending legal approval, this will be added to both handbooks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 with a first from Jim G and a second from Elaine.