

Opening of Meeting:

- **Call to Order:** Liz Christofylakis at 6:31pm
- **Prayer:** Liz Christofylakis
- **Roll Call:**
In attendance: Liz Christofylakis, Beth Lind, Marissa Demir, James Galanis, George Argires, Jim Stavrou, Dr. Maria Douros, Connie Cassiani (via Zoom), Dean Korolis (via Zoom), Elliot Danos (via Zoom)
Not present: Fr. Chris Avramopoulos

School Board Chair Opening Remarks:

- Talked about Greece's Ministry of Defense, Nikos Dendias, visiting today. The Counsel General of Greece also attended and other dignitaries. He arrived at 10:30, welcomed by clergy, students, staff, school board chair, and parish council president. Mr. Dendias wanted to see the inner workings of the building. He engaged with students and truly showed how interested he was in the students and school. Impressed by our long history of education. He compared us to a school in S. Africa. It was a very authentic and vested visit. As he was walking around, he was amazed and said that Koraes is one of the nicest schools he has visited abroad. Mr. Dendias also talked about building a relationship with Koraes, an exchange type of relationship. He wants to build relationships with the school and with the war museum of Greece by sending and explaining various artifacts as well as explaining why the Greek military is the way it is so that we have an understanding of it. The church gifted him an icon and the school gifted him with a Koraes blanket. He gave a medal to the school and one to the church.
- We kicked off the new year at school with a wonderful return of students and staff. We celebrated with the traditional cutting and serving of Vasilopita. MAP testing will begin once everyone is back in the swing of things.
- Parish Council has an approved plan to get a sponsorship program to help pay for window replacement of the school which will help add to the level of maintenance that the school needs.
- Meeting minutes from November 21, 2024- Change the name from George Lattas to George Argires as Advisor of School Board; correction made.

- Notes were approved

Community Comments (if applicable):

No comments

Head of School Report: Beth Lind (interim)

Enrollment:

- Current school enrollment 196 students
- Staffing: fully staffed
 - Dr. Roberta Zasadzinski, middle school math teacher-began this week-she has a doctorate in physics and is certified in math up to grade 12
 - Mr. Anthony Rossi, PE 3-8-he is certified to teach P.E. up to grade 12
- MAP testing is complete and the window has closed. Will have MAP scores printed and sent home with students. If parents have questions, they are to contact classroom teachers.
- Process of completing winter running records will be conducted during January and February.
- Attendance was really solid on Tuesday, due to the weather
- Met with Mr. Sellas (Jim, Beth, and Connie). Has the floor and will get bids on space and utilization of space. Hoping to hear from him in the next couple of weeks. Feels strongly that Makerspace will be completed in May
- The Book Fair is at the end of the month. Date changed to Wednesday and Friday, as we are hosting The Three Hierarchs Liturgy with students and staff from Hellenic American Academy and Guardian Angel.
- Three Hierarchs is next week. We are hosting the Class of '25 students from Hellenic American Academy and Guardian Angels. They will be attending Divine Liturgy with our 8th grade students. After liturgy, we will be hosting a luncheon with the 8th grade students. His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and Mr. Christopher Chiakulas will be participating in the luncheon. This was held last year at St. John's-Guardian Angel.
- Friday is an early release. Staff will be working on data and differentiation
- Open House is scheduled for the first week in February. This is by appointment only. We have 2 tours scheduled for Open House and one already took place
- Souper Bowl dress down day is Friday, February 7. Students may wear football colors or jerseys if they participate by bringing in a non-perishable item.

- February 10th Divine Liturgy & 3 Hierarchs and Greek Letters program. Our Elinomathea exam awards will be given out on Monday.
- Hot lunch from the school perspective: efficient in terms of getting the meals out quickly. The staff from Country House has been helping get the lunches out to preschool. Hot lunch is smoothing out and has a good rhythm.
- Colgate screenings occurring on February 2nd. The turnout for participation is low. This was a new opportunity for our school.
- STEAM camps dates: June Tuesday-Friday June 10-13, 17-20, 24-27. Paperwork to be sent out soon.
- Final parent presentation has occurred-many are out of compliance; parents have been contacted for compliance for events coming up
- Great Christmas program
- Teachers appreciated wellness day and lunch
- SEL curriculum-Follow up on Wayfinder. SEL actually originated from the Ancient Greeks. Plato started with a book entitled "The Republic," and he mentions that there must be a balance when learning physical education, art, math, science, character, and moral development. Wayfinder is the research-based curriculum that Koraes has chosen and will be working to implement prior to the end of the year and for the 25-26 school year. The curriculum focuses on
 - Collaboration
 - Adaptability
 - Self-awareness
 - Empathy
 - Responsible decision making
 - Purpose
- **Strategic Plan update:**
 - Continuing our relationship with SXU with two practicum students and another from Trinity
 - February Institute: Portrait of a Teacher
 - What does that look like—teachers stepping up, working together, and collaborating well with one another.

OLD BUSINESS:

Country House- has been serving lunch to our students for about 3 weeks.

The proposal given to us for the program was as follows:

- Country House serves the lunch; therefore, no need for lunch monitors
- Staff working in the kitchen have taken all modules and done background checks.
- Consistent program for hot lunch in orders. Have shown a great level of professionalism.
- Tweaking the menu to make it more diverse. Menus are diverse.
- Good portions for older kids and meals.
- There are at least 1-2 days a month that will have alternate lunch (no Country House) and that is when we would need/have lunch monitors

KFSA- reach out to the parent population to get rolling and organize to have it up and running by the spring. Next School Board meeting will focus on parent organization.

School website-target launch date is March. It is currently being worked on and revamped. A team will be exploring it and piloting it as we get closer to launch date. Need to boost the landing page and highlight the importance of the school as well as get pictures up on the site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Survey went home with an explanation of security and the \$500 fee. The survey was sent to 351 email addresses and we only received 102 responses. 41.2% are not in support of the \$500 security fee and 58.8% are for the \$500 security fee.

Approval list: 4 Things

1. Registration 25/26 School Year
 - a. Tech fee, Security fee & Art fee will have no increase-field trips and school supplies not factored into fees
 - b. Before Care/After Care-price will stay the same.
2. Tuition increase \$45/per student per month
3. Volunteer policy changed to a minimum of 10 hours or 1,000\$-Jr. Olympics, Church Festival, Santa Brunch, Fall Fest, Lenten Dinner-anything outside of school hours count as volunteering. It also includes prep days as well as event days. Parameters will not change, no donating or exchanging hours from family members.
4. Calendar for 25/26 Year
 - a. early release will be at 1:15 instead of 1:00
 - b. Spring break will be split up. It will be the last week of March and the beginning of April because of how Easter falls.
 - c. First Day August 21
 - d. Last Day June 3

February's Meeting:

- **Staffing**
 - It is more beneficial for our school to hire 2 certified teachers vs. having a teacher and an assistant.
 - We are providing a salary increase, health, dental and vision.
 - Having professional development is important for all staff.
- **Building space**
 - We will look at class capping and size control because we are not expanding the building.
- **Enrollment numbers**

- Registration from current families is so important

Motion made by Jim Stavrou and second by Dean Korolis. All were in favor.

Motion approved

Fundraising:

- The last 2 years of fundraising is about where we are fiscally. We have been able to maintain a nice budget.
- Need to delve more into what type of fundraising the community supports and what we will receive. Will work on ways to educate the community about our fundraising and what it looks like
- Will continue with the Gala
- Find more ways to draw more of the community in our fundraising
- Look at multiple ways to continue on the path of people giving freely.
- KFSA survey will also have fundraising questions
- It was stated that in many private schools, families are given fundraising goals that we don't put on our families. All of the fundraising done is based on events we host.

Today was a great day to showcase Koraes and what we have to offer. Students were excited to speak Greek and meet the Defense Minister.

Godparent Sunday on February 2nd—close to being sold out.

Meeting close with prayer: Liz Christofylakis

End of meeting at 7:26 pm