

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

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2025

Opening of Meeting:

- **Call to Order:** Liz Christofylakis at 6:34
- **Prayer:** Liz Christofylakis
- **Roll Call:**
In attendance: Liz Christofylakis, Beth Lind, Marissa Demir, George Argires, Dr. Maria Douros (via Zoom)
Not present: Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, James Galanis, Jim Stavrou, Connie Cassiani, Dean Korolis, Elliot Danos

School Board Chair Opening Remarks:

- Wonderful Tsiknopempti, hosted with parents volunteering. Shout out to Pete's Market for donating. Food was the perfect amount and kids and staff raved about it. Nice to celebrate the cultural celebrations at the school
- Registration:
 - Current family registration began February 1st; New family registration opens on March 1st.
 - It is encouraged to get paperwork in, the sooner the better. It is very important because registrations allow for planning of staffing, curriculum, technology for the new school year, which occur in the spring around March/April.
- Beth will return as Instructional Director of Curriculum for 25/26 school year
- Meeting minutes from January 23rd Meeting-
 - Notes approved

Community Comments (if applicable):

No comments

Head of School Report: Beth Lind (interim)

Enrollment:

- Current enrollment is 196
- Preschool received three new students in January/February
- Open House: Total of 9 tours which included preschool and kindergarten.
- Current registration:
 - 47 registrations have been started
 - 40 are complete
 - Staffing for the new year

Staffing:

- New teachers have started.
- Next year planning for staffing can not begin until registration is complete. The longer parents wait, the more difficult the process.

Facilities/Buildings & Grounds:

- Fire system has been completed; we are 100% back on line. Fire department confirmed on 2/19.
- The Makerspace floor has been installed and completed. The water/gas stations have been removed and the coverings have been installed. The next steps are ordering furniture, painting and demolition of the storage area to be replaced by work centers and shelving.
- Lights are almost completed; the last of the ceiling tiles to be installed are for the dirty ones and one in the north girls' bathroom.
- Asbestos inspection will be conducted in the next several weeks as we are due for our three year compliance inspection. Several floor tiles have been replaced in many classrooms. The next project in classrooms is to cover the old vents from the previous HVAC system.
- There has been one bid for replacement of exterior windows in classrooms and the gym as well as beyond the school wings and gym. Two additional bids are required. Those have not been scheduled yet.
- Fencing bids need to be completed for the playground.

Curriculum & Instruction & Programming:

- Thank you to the Greek Department for celebrating Greek Letters and the Three Hierarchs. Well done. They have started to prepare for the final program, The Annunciation and Greek Independence Day to be held on March 20 in the gym at 1:45. The program will feature middle school students, preschool, prekindergarten, third & fifth grade students.
- Early release and Institute Day: grading and planning was Friday. Tuesday professional development to support differentiation of instruction and assessing students for F&P running records. The Greek Department worked on differentiation as well as program preparation for March.
- The goal to send home report cards is tomorrow. That will not be met due to absences and make-up work. K-2 report cards will be sent home on Monday, February 24. The portal for PS will be turned back on Friday, February 21 as planned.
- Spring PTC conferences are by request of the teacher or the parent. Teachers have reached out to parents regarding conferences on behalf of the school. Teachers are scheduling their own conferences. Please do not contact the office. Conferences are virtual.
- MAP scores are on target. We dissected them and created plans for grade levels and individual students. Individual class data will not be shared due to small class sizes and confidentiality.

Strategic Plan:

- We have two students here from SXU working on practicums. These university students are working in first grade.
- Teachers are developing "Portrait of a Teacher". This was discussed in small groups on our early release and Institute Day with a small group.

Other:

- We had a wonderful experience celebrating liturgy with His Eminence and Guardian Angel School along with their students. We had a guest speaker to discuss and share best practices transitioning to high school. The students also participated in a Q&A with Metropolitan Nathanael. The luncheon was sponsored by the Emmanuel Theodorou family. This will be an annual event hosted by different schools moving forward.
- The winter Book Fair was very successful. It works well to end on an early release day.
- The boys' and girls' basketball season has ended. It was an exciting season and we are looking forward to the next extra-curricular track season. Information to be coming soon.
- Early in February, K-2 celebrated the 100th day of school with a parade and different activities.
- The school celebrated "Souper Bowl" by bringing in non-perishable items to be donated to a local charity. We are waiting for items to be picked up.
- Thank you to students and families for celebrating my birthday with me last week. It was a super special day - especially to celebrate with students!
- Thank you today to our parents who prepared and served food today for Tsinknopempti. It was delicious.
- Next week is a field trip for grades 2 & 5 to Shedd Aquarium. They will be studying ecosystems and the environment that these animals live in.
- Seventh and eighth grade students are preparing their work for the Oratorical Festival with religion teacher, Mr. Alex. The annual Agrafon is Saturday in Lincolnshire and our 8th grade students will be participating. Soon, our students will also be preparing for the annual Law Day essay in grades 6-8.
- Prayer Service on Wednesday-Fr. Chris shared a good message to everyone as we approach Lent~ Love thy neighbor and forgiveness
- PK3 - 1st grade students are attending a field trip to Wonder Works on Tuesday, March 11
- Career Day has been moved to April 25. Due to the Detroit basketball weekend scheduled for the original date of March 14.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Met with Country House for feedback. Great experience working with church and school. Variety of menu items and portion sizes. Positive working relationship. Look forward to continuing with this. Selling a lot on a daily basis.
- Survey of hot lunch from the parents' perspective will be sent at the end of the year.
- The development of the new website is not ready for March launch, but will be launched before the end of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Parent Organization:
 - KPTA elections were not able to fulfill office positions therefore the school could not proceed with KPTA.
 - Koraes Family Staff Association (KFSA)
 - All parents will receive a survey tomorrow (Feb. 21st).
 - James Galanis and Connie Cassiani helped to put the survey together.
 - Looking for feedback on what parents want the organization to look like and how important the KFSA is. There will also be a place at the end of the survey to provide parental feedback.
 - There will be a planned meeting before spring break by those who want to be a part of the KFSA either as a member or an executive board member.
 - Announcement of survey results and bylaws
 - Next steps: send survey, set up meeting date, once survey is closed the bylaws will be sent out so everyone can review and comment and give feedback.
 - Structured round table meeting.
 - Goal: working on putting together what the bylaws would look like. The bylaws to be in place by April School Board meeting and immediately sent to the executive committee and by May to establish a meeting for elections/nominations.
 - The School Board chair went over the **working bylaws** of the KFSA and more will be shared during the March meeting. (See attached **working bylaws**). She covered and explained the following articles of the bylaws:
 - Name
 - Objectives
 - Authority
 - Membership
 - Executive Committee
 - Duty of Officers
 - Policies
 - Meetings, Procedures, & Voting Rights
 - Chairs and Committees
 - Amendments
 - Events

Fundraising:

Closing comments:

- It's an exciting time to be a student and family at Koraes school. A lot is happening and involvement is key.
- Events coming up:
 - Apokriatiko Luncheon-family event (this Sunday). A part of the proceeds raised will go to help the victims from the fires in California.
 - March 3rd-Clean Monday Lenten Dinner- church service and then lenten dinner after.

Meeting close with prayer: Liz Christofylakis

End of meeting at 7:44 p.m.