

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

## **MINUTES OF THE OPEN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

March 20, 2025

### **Opening of Meeting:**

- **Call to Order:** Liz Christofylakis at 6:35
- **Prayer:** Fr. Chris Avramopoulos
- **Roll Call:**  
**In attendance:** Liz Christofylakis, Beth Lind, Marissa Demir, Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, James Galanis, George Argires, Dr. Maria Douros (via Zoom),  
**Not present:** Jim Stavrou, Dean Korolis, Elliot Danos

### **School Board Chair Opening Remarks:**

- Meeting minutes from February 20th Meeting-
  - Notes approved

### **Community Comments (if applicable):**

- Mrs. Petraski- has a concern with the direction of Koraes. Feels that we are operating in red and instead need to focus on minimizing cost instead of increasing tuition 6-9% yearly. Worried about attrition. Suggest to cut costs to help bring tuition costs down. Wants to know what can be done. Feels sense of community doesn't exist and that school board meetings need to be more welcoming
- Mrs. Killeen-reiterated what Mrs. Petraski stated about tuition increase. Wants justification in why the tuition fee increases. Feels that the increases in tuition makes it difficult to manage the education of students. Says that an education should be given to everyone without having to feel/have a financial burden. Also suggests an increase in transparency on how tuition funds are allocated. Would like to have access to financial reports in order to better understand the health of the school. Suggested to cut costs to faculty and resources. Mrs. Killeen has concerns that the decisions made are from external pressures. She too believes that the atmosphere of school board meetings are uninviting, even the format of each meeting. Believes that school board meetings should be open and accessible and families need to be able to share.

### **Head of School Report: Beth Lind (interim)**

#### **Enrollment:**

- Enrollment: 196
- Congratulations to our Greek Department! Fantastic program today. As Kyrio Stavros and Presvytera Georgia stated - huge heart-felt thank you to our parents that provided support and guidance for our student groups who participated in the program! Fr. Chris noted that it's a Double feast of Annunciation and March 25th Greek Independence Day.

- In honor of Greek Independence Day students in grades 4-8 will be attending a field trip tomorrow to a Parthenon exhibit at NEIU.

### **Curriculum & Instruction & Programming:**

- Roaring 20s project-class of '25
- Celebrated Pie Day last Friday with a variety of activities to develop understanding of 3.14. Pie was also provided to students.
- Great participation for St. Patrick's Day-\$1 Dress Down Day-new recess toys have been purchased and have been put outside with the money raised
- Reviewing updated GOMATH! and pre algebra series;
- Professional development participation through paid grants
  - Making Best Use of AI to Strengthen ELA instruction
  - Mastery of Math Facts and Mental Math Skills
  - Using AI Tools and Strategies to Advance Target Language Proficiency
- Recent field trip: PK3 - 1
  - WonderWorks! Exploring, creative thinking, problem solving, hands-on and supports STEM education, fosters collaboration amongst not only classmates but also students in other grade levels. We are committed to providing students with hands-on learning experiences that support both sides of brain development, especially analytical thinking and problem solving. The feedback from staff was outstanding.
- Upcoming field trip:
  - The week after spring break many of the students in 7th & 8th grades are attending Washington DC. Leave on April 3 and return April 5. This is the third trip for Koraes students.
- Midterms: April 4
  - Grades 3-8 will be posted on PowerSchool & grades K - 2 will be sent home on Friday, April 4.
- Mrs. Grachan is back and currently is working on the school handbook, a work in progress, using the model from IPA (Illinois Principal Association). Handbook should be ready for review in May. Updates will be done with our information included.
  - Two areas that have come up this year: non-attendance for in-school field trips and off-campus field trips. Unlike public schools, who receive funding for General State Aid, it is necessary for public schools to make arrangements for students to remain on campus if they are not attending. Regarding our school, that is not the case. We do not have the means to make arrangements for students to remain on campus and it puts a bind on our team as far as supervision. Moving forward, parents will need to keep students home when a decision is made not to attend an off campus field trip. As far as an in-school field trip this will be on a case by case basis.
  - The second addition is preschool: moving up from PK3 to Prekindergarten. If a child does not turn 4 by September 1st, the child will remain in preschool. This has been the case in the past, however, due to many requests this year, it will be added to the handbook.

- Registration 2025-26

PK 3	6
PreK	12
Kinder	14
First	16
Second	20
Third	10
Fourth	20
Fifth	10
Sixth	9
Seventh	11
<u>Eighth</u>	<u>10</u>
	138

Started the process: 147

### **Staffing:**

- Based on the enrollment numbers, what does this mean for staffing?
  - Reduction in Force or RIF.
- May 1st teachers are told if they are coming back for the new school year.

### **Other:**

April Events:

- Spring pictures on April 8. This is a dress for spring weather - not school uniforms.
- Holy Week and confessions.
- We will be off April 18 - April 22.
- Book Fair is scheduled for April 24 & 25.
- Kindergarten graduation pictures will be April 24
- Career Day April 25
- Talent Show auditions will be April 23 and the show will be May 21.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- KFSA-surveyed parents to get a feel for insight
- Results summary
  - See attached

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

April 28th meeting-will allow for a new board to learn about Jr. olympics concessions. Same as in previous years with parents volunteering. Schools role only in concessions. Parent volunteer hours are only concessions, not coaching a sport for the Jr. Olympics.

Summer camp information will be released tomorrow to begin registration. Starts week after school ends. June 9th first week and will be for two weeks.

4th Annual Fun Run coming up. Money will be going towards Security Enhancements. The School Board will take a look at security upgrades, what is needed, necessary not necessary. Security enhancements are already in the parish's and school's long term maintenance plan. A specific list will be created and shared. May 8th FunRun with a rain date of May 15th.

Playground: the school has had several bids and price proposals. There is money for the fence but we are also looking at ISBE (Illinois School Board of Education) on playground regulations regarding fencing.

**Closing comments:**

Letter shared on behalf of parish council that a decision was made by Parish Council regarding the School Board. The parish council has adopted a new policy stating that individuals who have students in attendance at Koraes school will not be on the School Board. Those that are currently on the School Board will continue to serve until June 6, 2025, in which a new School Board will be seated on June 7, 2025 for the 25/26 school year.

- See letter attached

Motion made to move to executive meeting. Motion was second and moved to an executive meeting.

**Meeting close with prayer:** Fr. Chris Avramopoulos

**End of meeting at 7:16 p.m.**