



Koraes Elementary School
 SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
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Faith, Family and Excellence in Education Since 1910

April 19, 2024

Beth Lind
Principal

Fr. Chris Avramopoulos
Proistamenos

School Board Members
2023-2024

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Parish Council President

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Dear Koraes Community,

What an exciting time to be part of 114 years of Orthodox Faith based education and Hellenic Language and Cultural instruction! We are so grateful for each and every one of you, from our students to our staff, to our parents, our alumni and friends of the community. Koraes has been blessed with unprecedented support that has been key in ensuring our current and future successes.

In February we conducted our Strategic Plan with the aim of assessing our current strengths and weaknesses, as well as identifying the factors that will influence our future development. Led by educational strategist Dr. Robert Madonia, we found the strategic planning process to be insightful and a true representation of our community's pulse. In assessing the data collected and looking at the last five years of Koraes' growth and development, several significant advancements have been made that allow us to plan for a robust and bright future for Koraes. The complete Strategic Plan and its comprehensive guidance for Koraes' future will be released following Bright Monday.

Of significance from our Strategic Plan is the decision to move forward with an exciting shift in our school's administration. For the last eight years Mrs. Beth Lind has grown and developed Koraes into a true top-tier institution. Her gifts and talents, and her dedication to Christ have led us down a path of development that none of us could have envisioned – record breaking enrollment, specialized instruction, innovative curriculum, excellent professional development for her staff, and countless other accomplishments. To that end, we are thrilled to announce that Mrs. Lind will continue on at Koraes in a new position for the 2024-2025 school year as Instructional Director. The Instructional Director will be responsible for the overall management of curriculum and instruction. The Instructional Director will assist in ensuring the professional instructional effectiveness of the staff and the educational progress of the students. Mrs. Lind has agreed to a multi-year contract. Additionally, Koraes Elementary School will be replacing the role of principal with the new position of Head of School. The Head of School and Instructional Director will work closely to ensure the success of our students and staff.

The responsibility of the Head of School position is to lead and manage the day-to-day operations of Koraes Elementary School. In keeping with the school's mission, the Head of School fosters the traditions, relationships, and practices that determine the school's climate and culture. This includes directing and overseeing curriculum and instruction, programs and activities of students, faculty and staff for grades preschool through eighth and to meet the educational standards required by the school and the school's accrediting agencies. The Head of School oversees all school administration, works with the School Board and staff to implement board policies, reports to the board on all key areas, and represents the school to internal and external constituents. In order to assess instructional practices, the leader will manage faculty and staff along with student selection, evaluation of the same, and develop and monitor the school's resources.

Applications for the position of Head of School will be accepted beginning Monday, April 22, 2024, through May 6, 2024. The position will be posted publicly on several forums to facilitate a robust candidate pool. The hiring process will be overseen by two independent consultants, Dr. Ryan McGuckin and Dr. Paula Sereleas. Drs. McGuckin and Sereleas will do an initial screening of all applicants. Upon their recommendation, applicants selected to continue in the interview process will then meet with a hiring committee made up of current Koraes Elementary School staff and advisors (not School Board members). The Hiring Committee under the leadership of Drs. McGuckin and Sereleas will recommend candidates for hire to the School Board after they have completed thorough rounds of assessment and interviews. The School Board will have the opportunity to conduct an interview with all referred candidates. Based on the hiring committee, School Board feedback and consultation with Drs. McGuckin and Sereleas, the School Board Chair, in consultation with Father Chris and the Parish Council President, will refer a candidate for final approval to the Parish Council Executive Board in a special meeting.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Koraes School is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge and skills through a whole-child approach to education that fully prepares students for college, career, citizenship and the challenges of the 21st Century. We believe that through an intentional integration of faith and learning, Koraes students are challenged to achieve their fullest potential and aspire to become critical thinkers who are fully prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world while remaining steadfast to the traditions and teachings of the Orthodox Christian Church and the Hellenic culture.

Dr. Ryan McGuckin is the Superintendent of Woodland CUSD #5. He has previously served as a middle school social studies teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, principal, superintendent, and currently serves as the Superintendent at Woodland CUSD #5 since July of 2015. Dr. McGuckin holds certifications in Chief School Business Official, Specialist in Education, School Improvement and Leadership, Illinois School for Advanced Leadership, ISAL IV Fellow, and AASA National Superintendent Certification. Dr. McGuckin is married and has a daughter who is receiving her elementary and middle school education in a faith-based private school.

Dr. Paula Sereleas is the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction of Plainfield CUSD #202 with 31 schools. Prior to serving in this position, she has been a high school social sciences teacher, junior high assistant principal, elementary school principal, and director of middle school curriculum. Currently she oversees all curriculum directors and media specialists, Title monies, the Strategic Plan for student learning and achievement and budgeting for curriculum in Plainfield CUSD #202. Background - strong multicultural experience having lived in three countries including Britain, Kuwait, and the US. Married into a Greek Orthodox family 27 years ago with three children who have all received Greek language education, and resides in the south suburbs.

Mrs. Lind will continue to serve as principal until a transition plan is established and the hiring of the new Head of School will assume responsibility for the leadership of Koraes on July 1, 2024. An update on the hiring process will be given at the May open School Board meeting.

Please address any questions or concerns directly to schoolboard@koraes.org.

Exciting things are happening, and we are grateful for the opportunity to lead Koraes and lay the foundations for its next 115 years of success!

Thank you,

Elizabeth Christofylakis

Elizabeth Christofylakis
School Board Chair

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