



January 14, 2026 7:00 PM Make up date 1/26
Meeting Agenda and Notes

1. Call to order (President) 7:06 PM
2. Opening prayer (Principal) Mrs. VanDusen, Cristin shared we will start including prayer intentions after our opening prayer.
3. Introductions (President)
4. Principal's Report (Principal) Received a large grant from the state of MI for safety, some of those items will be put in place in February. This will include an AI overlay for our cameras, this will pick up anything we ask it to, including specific faces, metal, etc. We also have been taking measurements for the windows and a quote is coming in to add a security layer. More will be shared in an upcoming communication from Mrs. VanDusen. The founder of the AI company will host a parent session to explain the technology. For the auction, we definitely need new pre-school furniture and we need some new kitchen equipment so we will use paddle up and other funds raised for. Because of the grant for safety we will be able to focus our auction dollars towards school improvements.

Dorothy Ursaki brought up the kids being outside at recess and safety out there. There is discussion around having a camera out on the playground, however, electrical needs to be run to the playground for this. We have our lunch staff and Fr. Tony and I have talked about adding more staff/volunteers for recess.

Lauren Bukowski - brought up the banner on the fencing. She had concerns about it blocking people's view and people hiding behind it. Mrs. Van Dusen indicated they are no longer going to install the banner.

5. Vice President's Report (Vice President) An additional new thing we are doing this year is we are incorporating pre-school more and more into our environment: we will be buying pre-school teachers lunch for their conferences.
6. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer) Not much to report since November since we haven't had any large events. The big upcoming event is the Auction. Our contract with the venue is for 200 people, so far we have a little over half of our sales needed to cover our costs. Early bird pricing is available until Jan 31. Jogathon is closed and we came in 13K above our goal. The salmon project is live and going, everything was purchased and the fish are thriving so far. Keep the fish in your prayers.

Cindy O'Brien - Asked if Bingo night had any revenue, Miriam reminded that Bingo is not a fundraiser, it is a social event, so we don't budget for any revenue for that event.

A question about Santa shop - we made about \$1000 in revenue and were about \$250 short of our goal. We did renew the contract for next year, so we will get a 5% discount for next year.

We got a new invoice for IXL and we spent \$3K more than we had planned for. We spent \$13K on licenses. Dorothy asked if we could reconsider IXL and go back to paper homework? Mrs. VanDusen mentioned it is being considered and changes are coming. The Academy went to all paper and pencil for math, so it will be a gradual process.

7. Event Committee Reports (President)

- **GAP Pizza Lunch(11/25) (Veronica Reilly/Jenny Krysiak)** Jenny - went well. Hungry Howies gave us a really good deal. We split up K-3 and 4-8 and did recess and lunch in opposite groups. We incorporated extra salads. Next year we probably don't need as long of a volunteer window. Thinking about next year how we incorporate options for kids that don't like pizza. The event came in under budget by \$400. Jenny will chair again next year.
- **Giving Tuesday Campaign (12/2) (Miram Gomez)** We received 2 donations for giving Tuesday for \$50 each so we got \$100. If there are other ideas, we are interested in hearing. Maybe we could do a dress down day for a couple dollars?
- **Santa's Secret Shop (12/1-12/5) (Devyn Chandler/Sarah Lim)** Sent in report, raised over \$1000, we did renew and that will get a 5% discount. We didn't request anything specific. Shopping was heavy on Monday and Tuesday, but quiet later in the week; we will look to spread out the schedule over the week. If you have any suggestions please reach out.
- **St. Nicholas Day (12/5) (Emily Hoang/Veronica Korkis)** No report, confirmed they stayed under budget. May need a slight increase for next year.
- **PreK Cookies after Caroling (12/19) (Sarah Barberio/Nicole Case)** No report, Mrs. VanDusen shared that the tables were over at Foley, so we had to move the event to the cafeteria. Mrs. Barberio made all the cookies by hand. Positive feedback from parents.
- **Winter Family BINGO (1/23) (Rhonda Glasgow/Sheila Delo)** Good turnout even though we didn't have school. We had a few no shows. Ms. Rhonda did a good job with the food. We did run out of Bingo cards and cookies and prizes are depleted, so we need to restock fully for Spring. Sheila and Rhonda will chair again next year.
- **Parent/Son Event (Date TBD) (Kristina Valentine/Tashunna Booker)** Possible date 5/16th as the weekend to host it. Wants to do laser tag again like last year.
- **Spring All School Skate Party (TBD)** Chairs are open to hosting a Spring session, parents indicated interest so we will let them know to go forward with scheduling.
- **Daddy/Daughter Dance (4/18) (Julie Kane/Kristen O'Neill)** Theme, walk the red carpet.

- **School Raffle (Mike Kardasz)** Placed order for tickets, raffle format will be the same as last year (daily 4 lotto number). Volunteers needed for ticket counting - opportunity will be shared soon. Mike is looking for a shadow for next year since it will be his last year at GA. If you are interested please let us know. (Rachel McCabe indicated interest in shadowing).
- **Field Day (Kristina Valentine/Lena Hermiz)** We did pick the date - June 1st (Monday). Acme, one of the vendors charges us to set up on Sat/Sun so it costs a lot more to do it that way. May need to change date or see if they can set up the morning of. Will see if Acme can set up same day. Everyone love the shirts last year. Mr Lewis and Mr. Bork will be helping.
- **Restaurant Fundraiser (Karen Hathaway)** Panda Express restaurant fundraiser (the one on 12 mile in Royal Oak).
- **Used Uniform (Nicole Burley)** Sale this Wednesday at the Open House, always welcome to donate used uniforms. Has already brought in more than budget. If you have donations you can drop them in the office tomorrow. If you ever need to shop just ask Mrs. V
- **Spirit Wear (Maryann Weitzel)**
- **RaiseRight (Tonya Manion/Rossana Barraco)** If you would like to enroll or have any questions, please email us at scrip@gaschool.com Returned \$2840.90 for Dec/Jan. We might break 10K in tuition returns this year.
- **1st Day School Supplies (Kristen O'Neill/Christie Cooke)** Working on getting the lists for this year.

8. **Auction 3/7/26 (President)**

<https://cbo.io/app/public/bidapp/childreninbloom>

Auction Planning Meeting- Thursday, January 22nd at 6:30pm

Things are moving well, we have gotten some nice donations that have come in - sports memorabilia, jewelry, golf experiences, stays, with that being said, the event is 3/7 at San Marino Club. There are teacher experiences for auction. There are a lot of cool things. We need to sell 200 tickets, early bird sales end this Friday, we are only at about ½ the tickets we need to sell.. Please buy before then. An email will go out tomorrow. Feb 7th is the donation and sponsorship close date. Mrs. Van Dusen mentioned maybe putting together a video to advertise it. Lots of new fun experiences for auction.

****Action:** GAP Secretary will send out Auction previews.

9. **New business (President)**

- Elections - Nominations due by March 4th (e-mail nominations to Vice President, lauren.bukowski@comcast.net)
- If you are interested please reach out to us and we are happy to ask questions. Cristin announced that she will not be running for President for next year. Cristin does intend to

nominate Lauren for the President role. Additional nominations are welcome for any roles whether an existing person is running or not. Lauren is intending on running for President, Kris is intending on running for Secretary again. Miriam is not intending on returning for the Treasurer role. Miriam shared she has set up a good system for someone to step into and will help with any role transitions.

- Building Bridges Scholarship Will get posted in newsletter in Feb, will be communicated with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dorflinger and are due April 13, winners announced on May 1.

10. Open Forum Jenny K - brought up the Kroger donations and that is only \$11, will add to next newsletter. If you shop at Kroger, please remember to add GA on your Plus Card so we can receive Community Rewards.

-Will be sending out 2 sign up geniuses - 1 for night of Auction volunteers and 1 for open house donations; Volunteers for auction will still need to buy a ticket if they want to eat

-Mrs Perry asked that I resend the volunteer opening for more cookie donations.

-Mrs. VanDusen will be handing out Thank you cards at mass

-Sheila, the first communion reception - Should it be a parent with a 2nd grader? It is preferred that it isn't a parent of someone in the class since the parent will miss part of the Mass. Monica is shadowing this year with Miriam and next year will co-chair. We can send an email to 2nd grade parents.

11. Adjournment 8:04

Save the Date: March 11, 2026 7:00 PM next GAP meeting (GA Cafeteria)

Attendees:

Sheila Delo
Patrick Megaly
Lauren Bukowski
Cristin Joy
Miriam Gomez
Kristine Dunn
Courtney Kriener
Jenny Erdmann
Lena Hermiz
Cheryl McClintock/Belbot
Tanya Manion
Danielle Fernandez
Jason Roche
Dorothy Ursaki
Rachel McCabe
Molly VanDusen
Cindy O'Brien

