

School Advisory Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2021

Members Present:

Chris Spilker, Erin and Mitchell Dawkins, Julie Swanson, Hillary Johnson, Chris Chervenak, Marjorie Bresson, Stephen Turk

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chris Spilker.

Principal's Report

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is very solid for next year. (The highest it has been since 2015-2016. To date, there are 191 students enrolled for grades K-8. Currently there are 48 students enrolled for preschool; preschool tends to enroll students later in the year, so that number is expected to grow over the next several months. Mr. Turk anticipates 1 class of each grade level, except for 1st grade, which will have two classes. (There are already 33 students enrolled in 1st grade; enrollment will be capped at 36 for 1st grade next year.) As of our meeting date, each grade level has between 15-25 students, which is great for this point in the year! It is anticipated that grade levels which exceed 30 students would be formed into two classes for that grade level. Marketing ideas are needed to retain additional students in grade levels where we don't have a minimum of 24 students. The new Family of Parishes that were recently created may help us to gain more students, if we can market to those parishes who are part of our Family of Parishes that do not have their own elementary school associated with it. SAC will assist with marketing ideas as more information becomes available to us.

Mr. Turk is interested in having some type of Open House or other in-person event to connect families this school year. We have spent a lot of time with our own families this year and he feels it is important for our school family to connect at some point this year.

Precautions for next school year due to COVID-19 are still unknown at this point. The school will follow the guidelines of the CDC and Archdiocese of Detroit. It is possible that masks will still need to be worn. It is too early to predict what things will look like. After a trial in Mrs. Silvasi's classroom, plans are being made to continue making and using dividers between students' desks for classrooms with more than 24 students. Premade dividers that stand at 4 feet tall were too tall and tended to block the sound too much in the classroom. 30 inches seems to be a more appropriate height. An Eagle Scout in one of our local troops will be helping to build the new dividers, in addition to work by Mr. Turk and Mr. Ralph.

The school floors will be stripped and waxed this year. They were not done last summer due to the COVID-19 closure last spring, which prevented the building from being utilized for a large chunk of the school year.

New textbooks are being purchased for next school year. Those that needed upgrades have received them over the last few years and we are in good shape right now.

The Clawson Chamber of Commerce toured Guardian Angels and interviewed Mr. Turk recently. What a wonderful opportunity it was! We were able to showcase many of the wonderful things we offer at Guardian Angels. Watch for more information on when the Chamber of Commerce will release this, so you can share the link with your friends and neighbors to show them why you love sending your child to Guardian Angels School.

The State of Michigan offered Classroom Heroes grants to elementary teachers. The grants were intended to reimburse teachers for additional time and costs incurred while teaching amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Whitmer stated these grants are “just a small token of our gratitude to educators for going above and beyond during the pandemic.” “When COVID-19 hit, teachers worked around the clock to quickly transform from in-person teaching to remote instruction to ensure that their students could continue learning.” We are so fortunate to have such a fine, dedicated staff at Guardian Angels School! Mr. Turk was happy to report that each teacher qualified for and received this \$500 grant.

Obtaining a School Counselor or Social Worker (at least part time) for Guardian Angels has been a long-time focus of the SAC committee. As our enrollment continues to grow, we will revisit our request to have this position be considered. We would also like to consider classroom aides, especially for some of the younger grades where enrollment numbers are already high.

Currently, there are no anticipated staffing changes for next year.

GAP is sponsoring a Virtual Bingo on March 19th at 7:00. While we know it isn’t quite the same as gathering in person, we look forward to this creative way to gather our school family together.

Star 360 scores for mid-year should be released soon. Mr. Turk cannot reveal them until the archdiocese gives permission to do so.

Live performances are being planned for our spring school play. At this point, 2 evening performances are in the works. Watch for more information to be released soon.

Mr. Turk has finally received information about the accreditation process. This year will be considered a year of self-study. The site visit anticipated this year will be moved to next year. Mr. Turk will work with Mr. Spilker on continuing the self-study process with input from SAC.

Guardian Angels plans to host summer school this year. Students will be grouped in pods: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-7 with two teachers in each room. Plans are in place for 5 weeks of summer school, three days a week (T/W/Th). Other summer opportunities are also in the works such as Robotics Camp, Art Camp and Basketball Camp. Students have had so few opportunities for activities outside of the home this year. It will be great to provide some additional engaging activities.

New Business

SAC is still hoping to host an adult Trivia Night this year to raise money for marketing our great school. (We also can't wait to be able to safely gather with some of our family and friends. But don't worry, we will be following all the necessary safety precautions.) April or May are our target months to hold this event. SAC members will pursue a date and get the ball rolling. So, watch for more information in the months ahead.

Families have inquired about whether parents will be permitted to enter the school building next year. At this time, we just don't know. We will follow all state guidelines and make our determination on those guidelines when they become available. This year, the students have done remarkably well at functioning without their parents coming into the building with them. While it has been sad for parents, the students have thrived with their new sense of independence. In person events such as the Welcome Back picnic, Trunk of Treat and Christmas Concert are going on the school calendar for next year. We are planning as if all those events will happen next year!

Several parents have mentioned that their grade-level has created a closed Facebook group, specific to their child's grade, so that parents can stay in touch with each other, share information specific to their child's level and even plan some social events outside of school. While the school does not endorse or create these groups, parents can certainly create them on their own by sharing information with each other. If your child's grade isn't doing this already, perhaps it is something you may want to consider.

Mr. Turk has indicated it will be a busy summer with many projects taking place throughout the school in preparation for next school year. SAC has offered to help in whatever way is needed. "Many hands make light work."

Meeting adjourned at 8:12.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marjorie Bresson, SAC secretary