

## **School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes**

### **May 30, 2023**

**Members Present:** Chris Spilker, Chris Chervenak, Stephen Turk, Mitchell Dawkins, Marjorie Bresson, Lauren Bukowski

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM with a prayer led by Mr. Turk.

Marjorie Bresson, secretary of SAC, was presented with flowers and a card to thank her for her service to Guardian Angels over the past several years. Her son is graduating this year and will be moving on to Bishop Foley. The SAC secretary position will be vacant as of the end of this meeting and will need to be filled.

#### **Principal's Report**

- Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year continues to be strong. Mr. Turk has had to turn away three families with students entering 5th grade. There are not enough students to create **two** 5th grade classrooms and those extra applicants would make the class size too large if it remained one 5th grade class.
- K-2 enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is about 90 students, so we are definitely continuing our trend of building up the number of students in the lower grades.
- K-5 will be switching to a new reading series next year at a cost of about \$32,000. They are going back to Wonders by Houghton Mifflin.
- Technology updates are needed due to normal “wear and tear”. There is a need to replace some desktop computers. In addition, a new classroom set of Chromebooks will be purchased. The plan is to give them to incoming 5th grade students, to be used throughout their remaining years at Guardian Angels. Mr. Turk indicated that is about the lifespan of a typical Chromebook.
- Mr. Turk has a few families in mind to nominate for the SAC committee next year and will be inviting them to the first SAC meeting in September.
- Some extracurricular clubs will be continuing next year such as Robotics, Art and Writing Club. A few new clubs will be forming as well, including a K-8 Chess club and a Cooking club. The goal is to open up more options for some of the younger students. Clubs get challenging for older students to participate in when the

scheduling pressure of sports and school play need to be balanced with these other extracurricular activities.

- Measures are being explored to continue to improve the safety of Guardian Angels, especially in light of an increase in school tragedies over the past few years.
  - Mr. Turk has been gathering quotes on deadbolt locks for each classroom door. The ones they are exploring can be locked from inside the classroom by turning a latch on the inside of the door, which will indicate if the door is locked or unlocked.
  - Mr. Turk is waiting for a sample of a ballistic film to arrive. If purchased, it would be added to both sides of the windows to improve the length of time students could safely shelter in place if needed, while waiting for help to arrive in the case of an intruder.
  - Next year, the entrance doors to the school lobby will be locked during school hours. Video monitors are being installed at the entrance. Visitors will be buzzed in from inside the office.
  
- Accreditation was a success. It is a long process and a lot of work for the school staff. Thank you to Mr. Spilker for his contributions to that process as a representative of SAC.
  - One need that was identified as a result of the accreditation process was the need for a new succession plan which indicates the “chain of command” should an administrative (principal) position ever need to be filled at the school. There was previously a plan, but for a variety of reasons new succession options need to be considered. Some staff previously identified are no longer interested and new staff need to be pursued as options.
  
- K5 students “knocked it out of the ballpark” with their Star 360 K-5, with 90% of students scoring at or above benchmark in all areas. Grades 6-8 scores are not as strong. Due to requirements by the Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD), the school is obligated to use Star 360. Some staff of the school would like to consider using an additional assessment, such as iReady, but others feel adding another assessment for students might be overwhelming and/or time consuming for students.
  
- There will be a few staff changes for next year. Details are not yet available. However, Mr. Turk indicated there have been several people subbing regularly in the building this year that would be good candidates and have expressed interest

in being part of the teaching staff at Guardian Angels. Teaching positions are frequently hard to fill (statewide), so it is wonderful that there are good candidates lined up in case of openings.

- Mr. Turk is meeting to discuss budget with Mr. Karol tomorrow.
- There has been an unexpected change in maintenance staff. Mr. Ralph (maintenance) has decided to move out of state and has left Guardian Angels, leaving a vacancy. Jacob, whose family are members of the parish, has been filling in. A new maintenance staff member, Mr. Caesar, will be starting soon. He comes to GA with four years of experience at St. Paul's on the Lake in Grosse Pointe. In addition, three former students from GA, who are now teenagers, will be working at GA this summer - 1 student full time and 2 students splitting a second position. They do the heavy work.
- Robotics camp and Vacation Bible School will be running simultaneously this summer for one week (one in the AM and one in the PM).
- The addition of artificial playground turf was explored. It's expensive! The ground on the playground needs some work, especially on the preschool side. Additional options are being considered to improve it.

### **New Business**

- It seems that there is still some confusion about the purpose of the SAC committee. It was suggested that, at one of the Welcome Events, such as the Back to School Picnic or Meet the Teacher Night, Mr. Turk spend a few minutes explaining the difference between GAP and SAC, especially for new parents who might not be familiar with either one. GAP often is represented at those events, but SAC is not.
- Another Trivia Night is tentatively planned for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Funds raised are used to supplement the marketing budget for GA.
- SAC committee members brought feedback from representatives of the 8th grade class. It was suggested that, in the future, the graduation ceremony and the 8th grade students and parents' parties be held on different nights. When they are held on the same evening, it makes it challenging for families who have invited guests, grandparents, etc. to the ceremony to have a commitment for themselves afterwards. A Friday graduation ceremony followed by parties on Saturday were suggested.

- It was questioned as to why students do not get confirmed during 8th grade at GA. Archdiocese guidelines say students can be confirmed in either 8th or 9th grade. Parents expressed a preference for having confirmation moved to 8th grade. Mr. Turk said he would pass that feedback on to the appropriate staff at church.
- Lauren Bukowski was nominated by Chris Spilker to replace Marjorie Bresson as secretary of SAC, starting at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Mitchell Dawkins seconded the nomination. Lauren accepted the position..

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marjorie Bresson, SAC secretary