

Trinity Lutheran School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 16, 2023

Purpose/Mission Statement: Through Jesus, Trinity Lutheran School strives for academic excellence, spiritual growth, and lifelong service to God, family, and community.

Members Present: Jakie Pawling, Lori Paquette, Jason Jewell, Mark Ostransky, Mark Schmidt, Stephanie Clausen, Mark Vogt, Pastor Gerber. Special guest: Heather Nevarez

Opening Prayer: Jakie Pawling

Approval of Minutes: The November 2022 minutes were reviewed because we did not review the minutes during the December holiday meeting. Stephanie made a motion to accept November 2022 minutes, Mark Schmidt seconded the motion. All were in favor. December 2022 minutes were reviewed. Mark Ostransky made a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes, seconded by Mark Vogt. All were in favor.

Approval of Financials: The December financials were reviewed. There were a few questions about the tumbler fundraiser income vs. expense. Stephanie will check into that. There was also a clarification about the Savings category concerning Booster expenses. It was for the uniforms which will be taken off the savings expense category. Jakie pointed out that the Hot Lunch program appears to be in the negative and she had spoken to Amy who said that we are fine. After this discussion, Mark Ostransky made a motion to accept the December 2022 financials, Mark Vogt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Principals Report:

LaVonna was not present at the meeting due to a miscommunication about when the January meeting would take place. This is what Jakie reported from her:

District Stats of Lutheran schools was shared with the group via a hand-out.

The personnel committee has scheduled a monthly Zoom meeting to update and address the personnel handbook.

January 24-27th MAPS testing will take place again.

Thursday, February 16th is Parent Teacher Conferences.

White Boards in Kindergarten and First grade have arrived. Training is supposed to take place very soon.

Technology support/Jamie Poppe's stipend will be discussed in the Executive session.

PE Teacher – Currently Ms. Synovec is covering these duties. We all agreed this is a need for next school year that needs to be addressed.

Old Business:

Policies and Procedures: no update yet, the committee will be meeting before the February meeting.

Aquaponics: NE Extension Agency might be interested in participating in this activity.

Clear Touch Boards: They are in. Ms. Synovec's board has been installed.

Pre-K update: Jakie will be reaching out to Patrice (ECC), Casey (VBS), and the church to obtain information about Pre-K-aged children who we can reach out to as a group to encourage them to attend Trinity in the fall.

Playground update: Stephanie reported that we received a check for \$22,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to purchase the shade/shelter structure. She anticipates having bids by the next meeting. We will continue to use funds from the Spring plant sale to go toward playground improvement phases.

School needs: Need to have telephone/intercom system updated (This is a joint project with the school and church). Phase 1 of the updates to the upper grade's hallway will take place this summer. New countertops and sinks will be installed. The flooring will be next year. Playground liability needs to be addressed since the playground is being used more after school hours. A sign stating that the school/church is not responsible for personal injury will be obtained and displayed. Mark Ostransky stated a new gym floor is a need for the school that should be investigated. He relayed a story of a basketball student hitting his head and the ambulance had to be called just a few weeks prior.

Committees: We still are in need of another member for the Financial Committee.

New Business:

Gender Identity: Stephanie, Jakie, and Lavonna meet with Roy Hahn to discuss this topic and address it within the school. Multiple examples of other churches' responses were shared at this meeting. Roy Hahn will be attending the February meeting to present information to the entire council.

Tuition for 2023-2024. Tuition will go from \$3800/year to \$3900. Trinity member discount is as follows: Kindergarten – 4th grade: -\$325, 5th – 8th grade: -\$200

At this point in the meeting, we went back to Old Business specifically Pre-K Update. Pastor Gerber shared that the ECC does not plan to have Pre-K in their building next fall. We discussed at great length whether we could move Pre-K to the school campus. The logistics and needs of a Pre-K program were discussed. We learned that the music room would be available in the mornings so it might be possible to offer Monday – Friday mornings only Pre-K. We agreed to further look into specifics (cost, etc) to create a Pilot STEM Academy Pre-K program at Trinity beginning in the Fall of 2023. Pastor Gerber will get numbers together and we will meet via Zoom within the next few weeks.

We went back to New Business: Additional Council Member/s are needed. Jakie reported that she reached out to the lower-grade teachers and the only name suggested was that of Heather Nevarez, our guest. Jakie asked her to think about joining the school council and told her to reach out if she had any questions.

Executive Session

Closing Prayer: Pastor Gerber

Second Vice Chair: Lori Paquette