

**Trinity Lutheran School  
School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 20, 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, LaVonna Emanuel, Stephanie Clausen, Mark Vogt, Nelle Richardson, Heather Nevarez, Pastor Gerber. Special guests: Roy Hahn, Jessica Heineman

Opening Prayer: Jakie Pawling

An auction status update was given by Jessica Heineman. The school auction is scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Fremont Golf Club. Jessica shared a handout that encompasses the auction team, their approach, and updates on what has happened thus far. We have one Gold sponsor, 5 Silver Sponsors, 2 Bronze sponsors and so far there are 3 staff & faculty sponsored tables which should offset the out-of-pocket cost for them to attend. The facility can seat 240 and as of this meeting, 130 seats have been sold. The deadline for auction items is March 7<sup>th</sup>. The school council will oversee writing THANK YOU cards to all of the donors, etc that assisted with the auction.

Roy Hahn spoke to the council about the Gender Identity Policy. He gave a little historical background on what has happened and what legislation is currently being looked at in Nebraska. He handed out a proposed policy for the council to review which will be voted on later in the meeting. If this policy is adopted, it will be added to the 2023-2024 Student Handbook.

Approval of January 2023 minutes: Minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting as well as the January 30<sup>th</sup> ZOOM meeting were reviewed. Stephanie Clausen made a motion to approve both of the January 2023 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> was made by Mark Vogt. All were in favor.

Approval of January 2023 financials: January 2023 financials were reviewed. A motion was made by Lori Paquette to approve them, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Vogt. All were in favor.

## **Old Business:**

Policy & Procedure update: The Governance committee meet over ZOOM earlier in the month and reviewed the policy on vacation. They will meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Summary of small group work & Trinity IT position: Mark Schmidt was not present at the meeting to give us an update. Jamie Poppe has created a system to cycle the Chromebooks out. A group email has been created for the School Council ([schoolcouncil@trinityfremont.org](mailto:schoolcouncil@trinityfremont.org)) If someone sends an email to this address all of the current school council members will receive it.

Clear Touch Boards: Thursday a technician will be coming out to the school to do hands-on training on the boards with Jamie Poppe and Michelle Synovec.

Pre-K update: An Open House will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm. Miss Tiffany will be the teacher of record.

Playground update: Stephanie handed out estimates for the upcoming playground addition of Phase 1. Construction will begin in spring or early summer. She also handed out a proposed letter that will be going on with the plant fundraiser soon. All proceeds from the plant fundraiser will go to the next phase of the playground project.

School needs: Phones and locks were discussed. We received an estimate from Allo concerning the phone upgrade and installation. An estimate for the lock project was also handed out. Changing the locks will be on next year's budget.

### Principal's report:

- Kindergarten info night was on February 7<sup>th</sup> and Open House was on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Parent teachers' conferences were last Thursday (February 16<sup>th</sup>) and they went well.
- Pre- K teacher will be Miss Tiffany. The Open House is on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- MAPS Data slideshow: It compared Fall 2022 to Winter 2023 scores.
- There are plans in the works for a lockdown drill. A letter will be sent out to parents informing them when it will occur. There should be 2 of these drills done each school year.

## **New Business:**

Policy: The proposed Gender Identity policy was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Stephanie Clausen to accept the gender identity policy. There was a second by Mark Vogt. There was a brief discussion that took place. Nelle Richardson asked for clarification from Pastor Gerber if this policy lines up with the Lutheran philosophy. Pastor Gerber agreed that it does. After further discussion, all were in favor of accepting the Gender Identity policy submitted by Roy Hahn.

2023-2024 Budget: Jakie, Amy, and LaVonna have met to begin work on the budget for the next school year. They have a spreadsheet of items that they will review and go over. They will be meeting again as a committee to work on this.

Staff Appreciations: Administrative Assistant Day is April 26<sup>th</sup>. This includes Lacey, JoAnn, and Amy. Pastor Gerber said we can work with him on acknowledging them. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12. Be thinking of ideas on how we want to acknowledge and thank our teachers and staff. We will discuss this at the next meeting

Change to standard dress code policy: Stephanie brought it to the attention of the council that the dress code policy may need some clarification in regard to dress-down days and game-day attire. She handed out a document that cleared up the dress-down days as well as game-day attire guidelines that she would like added to the school handbook. It was discussed that a separate paragraph should be included that addressed the Dress Down Day Guidelines. This will be re-visited next month.

Staffing Model: LaVonna shared a presentation created by Tara Roberts that would broaden the elective offering to the middle school (grades 6, 7 & 8). These would be quarterly offerings, essentially 45 days of specialized training. It not only included the different class types but also ideas on how these courses could be paid for without having to add more tasks to the current teaching staff. It was a wonderful presentation that shared ideas that need to be investigated further. We will discuss next month specifics on what staffing needs have been identified as a need for the school.

High School Update: Pastor Gerber shared that the Genesis Project recommended that we move on to Phase 2. Trinity was offered the opportunity to move to Phase 2 at no additional cost to us. We will be moving forward into Phase 2.

Closing prayer: Pastor Gerber

Second Vice Chair: Lori Paquette