

Trinity Lutheran School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21, 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: Lori Paquette, LaVonna Emanuel, Stephanie Clausen, Mark Vogt, Nelle Richardson, Heather Nevarez, Mark Schmidt, Mark Ostransky, and Roy Hahn.

Opening Prayer: Stephanie Clausen

Approval of Minutes: July 2023 minutes were reviewed. Stephanie noticed a correction that needed to be made to page 2 of the minutes under the restaurant fundraising subtitle. The last line should be changed from "August" to "July". Motion made by Mark Ostransky to approve corrected minutes, second by Nelle Richardson. No discussion, all were in favor.

Approval of financials: July 2023 financials were reviewed. Stephanie noted a few things for the group like the income from plant sale which was the refund from Janet's jungle and that the Chrome books were purchased with funds raised during the Big Give. She also noted that in the expense category, the classroom updates were over budget for the upgrade for the sinks which we agreed upon months ago. She pointed out the shortfall for the year ended up being \$373,052 which was less than the projected \$516,000. Mark Ostransky made a motion to accept July 2023 financials, Heather Nevarez seconded the motion. No discussion, all were in favor.

Principal's Report:

RVR Bank has agreed to be a Community Partner with Trinity Lutheran School. This is great. There will be a chamber coffee event hosted by Trinity here at the school on October 5th at 9 a.m. They will also be doing the Bank In School Program.

Open House was Wednesday, August 9th from 5-7 p.m. There was a great turnout. Families were given a goodie bag with water bottles, a magnet, and the Family Handbook.

Fall Fundraiser: There was a lengthy discussion about what the fall fundraiser should be and what the funds should be used for. It was agreed upon by the council that we will use Shopfund for the fall fundraiser again this year which will take place from September 20- October 4th. Mark Schmidt made a motion to use the funds from the fall fundraiser to go toward playground improvements. Nelle Richardson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the decision. During the discussion about where fundraiser proceeds should go, there was discussion about what still needs to be done to finish the shade structure project that was started last school year. Picnic tables are needed to complete this project. Mark Vogt offered to pay for the picnic tables so that this project could be completed sooner than later. We will need 3 tables and an ADA-compliant table. Thank you, Mark! Because of Mark's generosity, we had a brief discussion about acknowledging donations. We will make sure to have a plaque on the tables acknowledging Mark Vogt's generous gift. We also need to add a plaque on the shade structure to acknowledge the grant that was able to provide this equipment for the school.

Trinity Radio Spot: Back in July Trinity did a radio spot about open enrollment that costs \$1000 which aired for a month, 7 days a week, and was heard multiple times a day. Heather mentioned that she heard it at the YMCA one day. LaVonna believes we received 3 referrals from this advertisement. She thinks we should do it again next year. She said that she is looking at adding the question "How did you hear about Trinity" on the enrollment forms so we can track this better.

Old Business:

School Website: The changes that were discussed last month in adding "goals" and "minutes" to the website have taken place.

Google Review: We would like 2 people who are non-council members to write a Google review of Trinity School. Heather will reach out and ask for individuals to do this.

Student participation in church: We tabled this for next month. We believe it is important to have students participate in church worship, but we want to be intentional about when we ask for this and who we ask.

Dining to Donate: We have raised \$650 so far with our 2 restaurant fundraisers. We are looking to have a fundraiser at Runza in September. We discussed that promotion within the church has been good – we have been able to reach a lot more people than just students and their families.

New business:

Endowment: When we were discussing the fall fundraiser and what the funds should be allocated for, we had a conversation about the needs of the school which are continuing playground updates (more handicap-accessible spaces and the potential of a separate pre-k space) and upper-grade classroom updates. It was decided after lengthy discussions that we would ask the endowment for funds to be used for ongoing classroom updates. Lori Paquette made a motion to request funds from the endowment for classroom updates. Mark Vogt seconded the motion. No further discussion, all were in favor.

Tuition rates for 2024-25: There was a discussion about raising tuition rates for the next school year. It was determined that a sub-committee should be created to look into how Trinity compares locally and statewide. Stephanie Clausen made a motion to have the financial committee, which is Jackie Pawling, Heather Nevarez, and Mark Vogt investigate tuition rates, incentives, and/or discounts for the school year 2024-2025. Nelle Richardson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Amber Barton was mentioned as someone to include in this conversation.

Closing Prayer: Stephanie Clausen

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Lori Paquette
Second Vice Chair