

**St. Gabriel the Archangel
Parish Board of Education
Public Summary September 2019**

This is a summary of Board of Education meetings/activity from January through September 2019.



Donor Update: St. Gabriel the Archangel Auction 2019, Fund A Need

The Fund A Need from the spring St. Gabriel the Archangel Auction was themed Literacy and Math development. Fund a Need focus is identified by school administration and supported by the Board of Education through marketing. This year, \$54,144 was generated for literacy and math program development. These donor dollars are already being utilized in a variety of ways including professional development in both literacy and math.

Leveled readers, classroom rugs and easels, and embedded literacy coaching are in place for the 2019-20 school year. A guided reading library has been created for faculty to gather student specific materials to differentiate reading instruction for reading. Math manipulatives have been ordered to enhance hands on math engagement and a new math online program called IXL. These are phase one updates to curriculum and instruction.

Finance:

In May, the Finance and the Future presentation was made to parishioners with multiple parish organizations coming together to share financial data for the fiscal year. The finance committee of the board has worked with Joan Miller (Parish accountant), Msgr. Shamleffer, and Principal McEnery to set tuition rates for the 2019-20 school year based on school needs, expenses and enrollment. The board finance committee completed a survey of tuition and fees at diocesan schools to confirm a competitive offering. In evaluation of fees, school families, and a multi-year drop in family participation in the program, it was determined to drop the mandate for Scrip Fundraising participation. Income generated from this program was rolled into tuition. The Scrip program remains open as a means to donate to St. Gabriel on a voluntary basis.

The school subsidy from the parish was \$380,000 for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The goal for the 2019-20 fiscal year is to reduce the subsidy to \$300,000.

Technology Update:

In the spring of 2019, St. Gabriel worked with Gadellnet, a technology audit and services company, to complete an audit of current technology status and create technology goals that align with the teaching and technology based communication wishes of the school. A full inventory of technology items was completed by Anne Pingel, Technology Director, this spring and from this inventory replacement and upgrade plans are being completed.

Our award from the e-rate application pays for 40% of our yearly bandwidth bill. We currently have 200 MBps of fiber which will carry us well into the future for our growth in network and connection needs. This connection also takes care of the needs of our church and rectory.

Last school year's concentration centered around the network to insure one that it can easily support any upcoming needs, including a new WiFi network with access points placed in each classroom as well as other strategic locations throughout the school building, church and rectory.

With this year's \$123,000 tech fee collection, we have concentrated more on student needs in the classroom. New chromebooks were purchased for grades 6 - 8. These chromebooks were also purchased with an extended warranty and an Otterbox case for protection purposes. Chromebooks already in inventory were passed down to grades 3 - 5. This puts our refresh plan into effect. New Chromebooks will be purchased each year for 8th grade students, pushing inventory down each grade level, until every grade level from grades 3 - 8 will have a Chromebook which is a newer model and one that will be covered under a warranty and keep the cycle renewed.

For grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade, touch-screen Chromebooks were purchased. We will be using a program called Clever to assist those students with logging in. Clever badges are physical badges that a student will hold up to their device's webcam to get logged in, instead of typing a username and password. Here as well, 2nd grade will have a cart of Chromebooks for each home room instead of sharing one cart for each room.

With students now all on the same platform of using Chromebooks and Google, it is easier to keep our students safe while on-line using the Google Education dashboard and making sure that we are following the CIPA guidelines which is a requirement when being granted E-Rate funding. (Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet.) We have also purchased a program called GoGuardian which helps us support student safety while on-line. This program allows teachers to monitor students using Chromebooks while in their class. This program also has many features including real-time

student interaction with on-screen chatting, the ability to close browser tabs and/or open tabs, lock out students from other, unauthorized on-line activity, etc. GoGuardian will also soon be coming out with a parent portal which will allow parents to see their child's on-line activity during their day.

Addressing other goals listed in our Technology audit: as we slowly migrate away from Microsoft based applications and with less Microsoft based equipment now in inventory, one goal is to migrate away from having two servers to just one server. Purchasing a cloud-based anti-virus for the Microsoft based equipment that remains in inventory instead of using the server based Symantec. Moving our data backup from a physical drive located on campus to a cloud based backup solution. Finding and putting in place a new, more robust Student Information System and school website.

Another goal is to move towards a collaborative coaching model for technology education versus students going to technology class. This will create opportunity to intertwine use of technology with a variety of subjects and projects. Having both a Technology coordinator and technology teacher allows St. Gabriel to pivot easily between student and other needs.

As has been the case in prior years, all technology fees collected are invested in hardware, software, support, and professional development. Technology fees collected for each student continue to be managed in a separate account within the school budget with all expenditures directly related to technology needs and goals.

Safety and Security:

Multiple school parents brought concerns about the safety of student pedestrians on Nottingham Ave during school drop off as automobiles drive outside traffic lanes putting students at risk for being hit by a vehicle. Multiple solution options were evaluated. The board safety committee held a meeting with the Alderman Tom Oldenberg and Principal McEnery. The city worked with St. Gabriel to create a temporary drop off lane on Nottingham in front of the church and rectory. It is operational each school morning. It reverts to a parking lane before the 8 am Mass.

As a result of concerns about student safety while in sanctuary, a parish-wide safety committee process is being started. The board representative for Safety has met with Msgr. and Parish Council to initiate this. Most exterior sanctuary doors are now locked shortly after Mass begins. Recommendations for enhancing student safety include gathering stakeholder experts/representatives, talking with the Archdiocese Safety Officer, and emergency training professionals about training and safety options to consider.

Middle School Initiative

The middle school initiative formally kicked off in January of 2019. The focus of this effort is to ensure that St. Gabriel has robust programming for middle level students, based on recognition that adolescents have a unique set of needs. to create systems that are meaningful to faculty, students and parents, and ensure our programming supports the whole child

Committee Work Thus Far:

- Literature review of studies and articles and the book "This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents" related to middle level education. Brainstorming, research content, and survey results (completed by parents in January) were sorted by content area and placed in working document based on the 16 Core Characteristics of a successful middle school program. (To view: [16 Core Characteristics](#))
- Professional Development: Faculty participated in a program at SLUH with a focus on preparing students for high school. Principal McEnery attended a conference hosted by the Association for Middle Level Education on middle level education leadership. Three middle school teachers attended the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York program on Literacy program being implemented at St. Gabriel. Two faculty members and Principal McEnery attended a House Systems development course at Chaminade College Preparatory School. Math teachers attended a conference to learn up to date math strategies. Providing 6th, 7th and 8th graders with greater planning opportunities in faith programming, such as prayer services and Masses.

While this endeavor was initiated from within the board of education, it is now led by Principal McEnery and faculty, with a few board member participants. Look for future updates on this initiative to come directly from Principal McEnery and Faculty.

The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month. Meetings are closed sessions, but an Open Forum is available for parents and parishioners who are interested in sharing a topic for consideration. Please feel comfortable to reach out to board members with questions and thoughts. All such topics must be provided in writing prior to the meeting and should include at least one solution for consideration. Please contact Mary Pat Carl at mpbcarl@gmail.com

Mary Pat Carl (Vice-President), Patrick McGinnis (Vice President), Kristin Busch (Secretary), Joyce Bytnar, Katie French, Dave Hahn, Cherie Massmann, Mary Beth Wolf, Russ Smith, Kari Niermann, Jennifer Heithaus
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