

GREENWICH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PA Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019

Meeting called to order: 8:44 am

Opening Prayer:

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new year with excitement and even some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Our Mission:

Greenwich Catholic School provides students with a life-long intellectual and spiritual foundation through a rigorous and innovative curriculum focused on faith, critical thinking, responsibility and service.

Our Motto:

ROOTED IN FAITH - SURROUNDED BY COMMUNITY - COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Approve minutes of the December meeting: 1st: Jennifer Koenigsberger

2nd: Katherine Blanding

PA Board Members: Nicole Hartman, Maria Elena Gaztambide, Magda Chrostowski, Meg DeCaro, Susan McKee

Excused Members: none

PA Members: Trip Curtis, Kinga Cook, Jen Koenigsberger, Angela Wilson, Melissa Kennedy, Kim Higgs, Meghan Novack, Donna Malusis, Janine Corticelli, Kim Garcia, Len Plantemoli, Susan McKee, Jennifer LaPietra, Lisa Plantemoli, Maureen Parker, Audrey Seplveda,

Veronica Buzzi, Jacki Brew, Marlo Tamilio, Priya Walia, Kathryn Stewart, Rose Bro, Ximena Weiss, Marielena Fernandez De Cordoba, MaryRose Driscoll, Connie Harvey, Brigid Futch, Tricia Caputo, Stacy Mack, Andrea Kopilak, Laurie Schick, Sarah Gengo, Karen Blair, Nina Balestriere, Diane Mannello, Byron Allen, Tami Allen, Kim Green, Mary Wilcox-Scelsi, Cristina Daly Hamel, Meg Caraher, Melissa Miele, Angela Wilson, Liz Dunleavy, Christa Frederickson, MaryBeth Brown

Correspondence: Father Ian, Father Richard, Mrs. Napoli, Mr. Novia, Ms. Cassarini, Ms. Lombardi, Mrs. Macaluso, Mrs. Fata, Miss Hansen, Mrs. Nigey, Mrs. Intrieri, Ms. Shouvin, Ms. Long, Miss Welge, Mrs. Rukeyser, Mrs. Novikova, Mr. Ronca, Mrs. Kennen, Mrs. Grall, Mr. Rogers, Ms. Valenti, Mrs. Collins, Miss Stote, Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Kopas

Important Dates:

Jan 10th	Back To Basics Journal Ads Due
Jan 11th	Second Quarter Ends 5th Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 15th	1st Grade Mass, 9am New Student Application Deadline (PreK 3 & PreK 4) Graduation Committee Meeting
Jan 16th	Greenwich Symphony, Grades 6 & 7 2nd Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 17th	4th Grade Mass, 9am Annual Fund Meeting after drop-off in the convent
Jan 18th	3rd Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 21st	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 22nd-25th	Upper School Midterms
Jan 25th	Kindergarten Mass, 9am New Student Application Deadline (K-8)
Jan 27th-Feb 1st	Catholic Schools Week
Jan 28th	Pep Rally, 1pm
Jan 30th	STEM Fair, Grades 6-8, 6:30pm (Snow Date, Jan 31st)
Jan 31st	Teacher Luncheon, 12pm (Classroom Volunteers 11:45 -1:15)
Feb 1st	First Friday Mass, 10am, Full Dress
Feb 2nd	Back To Basics Benefit, 7pm, Gym
Feb 6th	PA Meeting, 8:45am, Cafeteria
Feb 8th	5th Grade Mass, 9am
Feb 11th-17th	No School - Winter Break
Feb 18th	No School - Presidents Day

President's Report:

December Recap & "Thank You's":

Angel Day: It was such a special day for everyone. A huge thank you to our Chairs Jen Koenigsberger, Maura Lynn and Gina Ilardi for all of their hard work and making this day a success. Also to all of the volunteers who helped serve, set up and clean up.

Breakfast with Santa: It was a big success as well. Maureen Parker & Liz Dunleavy did such a wonderful job, thank you so much for creating another year of special Santa memories for our families.

Toy Drive: We addressed this last meeting, but another big thank you to Kim Garcia and Andrea Kopliak for coordinating our Christmas Toy Drive and Angel Tree this year.

Beautification: Thank you to Trip Curtis and Raul Perez for all that went into getting GCS into the Holidays and OUT! I have a new respect for how much work goes into decorating the campus for this time of year...the planning, organization and getting volunteers! So many thanks to you both and all the volunteers who helped out.

Christmas collection: Our Christmas collection was a great success. Everyone was incredibly generous, and we again surpassed what was collected the previous year to be given out to our teachers and staff. As you can tell by all of the thank you notes being passed around, it was very much appreciated. A huge thank you to all of you from the PA for helping to make our teachers and staff feel loved and appreciated! Over \$27,000 was collected. People seemed to like the online piece of the collection.

2019/2020 Board and Committee Positions: It's already that time of year to talk about the positions for next year. For all of the Committee and Special Event Chairs, it is time for you to let us know what your intentions are for next year. Separately, we are putting a Nominating Committee in place to find the candidates for the PA Board positions that are opening up. The two Board positions that are open for 2019/2020 are Secretary and Treasurer. You all will receive a letter to nominate yourselves or someone else for a Board Position. In order to run for a Board position, you must have some prior experience on the PA whether it be as a Committee Chair or Room Parent. If you think that you are interested in taking on a position or a Committee, come talk to us sometime soon. We'd be happy to fill you in on the requirements for any of the roles. We will also let you know which Committee Chair positions are open once the current group confirms their intent for next year.

VP Report: none

Treasurer's Report: Meg DeCaro distributed the Income Statement. She is waiting for expenses for Angel Day and Breakfast with Santa.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Faith-Service-Outreach - Kim Garcia and Andrea Kopilak discussed their plan for a school wide community service day. It will be held the last week in March and will benefit the Malta House. It will be called "Together In Kindness Sharing Christ's Love One Heart At A Time." The whole community will have a part in the day. They will start after winter break having students do age appropriate crafts with the teachers. Malta House is a place that provides a nurturing home for pregnant moms and women with small children. They help build the families up so they can transition into their own homes. The day of the service the children will

be paired with their buddies and they will have a specific task. They asked for volunteers to help with the service days.

They introduced Laila Bravo, a former resident at Malta House who discussed the program at Malta House. Laila was a homeless Mom who had been living in a bad domestic situation when she became pregnant. She lived at the Malta House for 22 months and is now self-employed and successful mother of two children.

Back-To-Basics Benefit – Cici Coutant discussed this year's Raise Craze. It is an online platform where children do Acts of Kindness which will be rolled out on January 25th. Each child can create a page where they are sponsored to do acts of kindness. The website has various ideas for kids to choose from. This raise will help fund the Malta House service day. It will be focused on the number of acts of kindness as a school can complete instead of how much money we raise.

Noelle Debes discussed the benefit on February 2nd. Tickets and journal ads are now available online. The auction items will be sent out before the event and there will be a lot of new food options this year as well. Mrs. Quartarolo will help design your ad for you. Elaine Guiffreda ask for volunteers to help set up on February 1st. The theme is Winter Wonderland.

Pizza - Kim Higgs mentioned that orders for the second half of the year must be in by January 20th to avoid a \$30 late fee.

Second Pizza Session: February 6th - June 12th

1 slice + ice cream = \$63.75
2 slices + ice cream = \$102
3 slices + ice cream = \$140.25
ice cream only = \$25.50

Teacher Appreciation -_Nina Balestriere discussed Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on January 31st. They could use help setting up and cleaning up the day of the event.

Bingo - Please save the date for this year's Family Bingo Night on **Friday, March 15th** at 6:30pm in the Gym. The Bingo committee is looking for new/unused toys, gift cards, books, games and any items that would be suitable for Bingo prizes valued \$5 and up. They need prizes that are suitable for all ages (even grown ups). Gift baskets for their raffle or items that can be put together in a basket are also greatly appreciated. You can provide the items and they are happy to assemble them. Please contact the Bingo Chairs MaryRose Driscoll, Sue Robinson or MaryBeth Brown if you have items to donate OR leave them in the front office and make sure to label them "Bingo Prize". There will be more information to come in the following weeks.

Father Daughter Dance – Nicole Hartman reminded everyone to please save the date for this year's Father Daughter dance on Friday, April 5th at 7pm in the Gym. More details to come.

Training Reminder – Nicole Hartman reminded everyone that immediately following today's meeting, there will be a short training for all volunteers signed up this year for classroom

coverage during the teacher luncheons. Mr. Corticelli is a GCS parent and Greenwich Police Officer who has kindly offered to do this and review emergency procedures with us.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Kopas wished everyone a Happy New Year. The results from ISM have come in and they are in the process of reviewing them. She said it is helpful for her to hear from the parents and there is always room for improvement. She said the beauty of the school is that the parents are comfortable enough to share and she is willing to listen understanding that the school is a dynamic place and always changing.

She discussed the topic of group work. She said this prepares them for the future in the workforce. She mentioned that in High School applications, they do character snapshots and they ask certain questions about the children. They are looking for kids to be able to work in groups, communicate and write. She asked the parents to be more about issues that go on with the students. She explained that when students work in groups they get an individual grade and group grade. They work very closely with the students to try to teach them life skills when working with each other. Often times there is a lot of good that comes out of groups like new friendships and new appreciation for each other.

She also thanked the parents for attending the training session after this meeting. When we think of the big picture, the more knowledge that we have the better we are as a community. It is a community minded activity that brings awareness.

Mrs. Kopas mentioned that during lent, she would like to have a "GCS Community Kindness Mass". She said that we all need to take a step back and realize what we have. She would like to have Father Ian talk to us and everyone can hit the reset button and everyone can work together as a community.

A question was asked about the test scores. She responded that they will be coming home in the report cards. She said that report cards will be distributed January 18th and middle school will be coming home on Feb 1st after mid-terms are completed.

A question was asked about the Sound Tigers flyer that came home in the backpacks. Mrs. Kopas said that it is a Diocesan event and people can go on their own but we will all be in a GCS section. She is looking for another event like this during Catholic Schools week.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:29 am