

Little Blessings Preschool Minutes

Attending: Emily Thomson, Deni Naumann, Kelsie Rice, Linda Hayes, Rick Blum (staff),
Heidi Anderson

Monday February 23 6:30 pm

Library - Verona Campus

All Generated minutes are in italics.

Quick recap

The Little Blessings Preschool Committee met to discuss enrollment updates, facility improvements, and the creation of a committee Mission statement. Linda reported strong enrollment for the upcoming year, with classes nearly full. The committee explored options for improving playground signage and resurfacing at both locations, with Rick and Heidi planning to tour the facilities and consult with Jeff about estimates. A significant discussion centered on creating a mission statement for the committee, with members agreeing to focus on fostering connections between the congregation, preschool staff, and parents. The committee also learned about a new Get Kids Ready grant program offering 5 subsidized half-day slots starting September 1st.

The meeting began with a short devotion and prayer from Emily that came from a devotion Pr. Rod Hank wrote back in 2011.

Romans 10:9 – “Not Me!”

Approval of December 1 Minutes (with Deni’s changes)

Rick moves, Emily seconds. Motion Approved.

Verona Campus Update (Linda)

Linda provided an update on enrollment, noting that classes were nearly full with a few spots remaining in the Lions class and one additional student in the Lambs class. She also mentioned that all teachers were confirmed to return for the next year and that the school had received a positive observation and rating during a recent inspection from YoungStar.

- Lions has 5 spots open, but 3 likely are filled. Lambs is full (13). 4k is full (20).
- As far as she knows, all teachers are coming back.

Financial Update (Rick)

The group discussed a new sub-committee focused on the Facilities Fund, which will make capital recommendations for the annual meeting. They also addressed the need for signage improvements at both Madison and Verona locations, emphasizing the importance

of security and convenience for parents. Rick expressed the need to obtain cost estimates for signage upgrades to determine the best funding approach, considering options like the facilities budget, foundation grants, or the new subcommittee. They agreed to start with simple, cost-effective solutions like door decals and a sign on the gate, while exploring the possibility of building-mounted signs in the future.

Rick suggested getting quotes for both signage and playground resurfacing, with Linda noting that Madison's zoning rules might complicate building signage. They decided to tour the facilities and discuss priorities further, considering that playground resurfacing could be a larger expense requiring facilities fund involvement.

The group discussed playground mulch options, with Linda researching non-toxic Jellybean rubber mulch. Linda agreed to reach out to both GRG Playscapes and Spencer Johnson regarding playground materials. Rick and Heidi planned to conduct a walkthrough and discuss signage costs with Jeff. Both Heidi and Linda say getting New mulch is more important than new signage.

Madison Campus Update (Heidi)

Heidi reported on staffing changes, including the departure of Dia, and mentioned receiving a Get Kids Ready grant, which will fund a new 4K half-day program starting September 1st, operating Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The grant pays for 5 children, with 4 additional slots available. They agreed to begin advertising through various channels, including their website, Facebook, church bulletin, and e-newsletter, with a focus on reaching families in Madison and surrounding areas. Heidi will update the website with program details and serve as the point of contact for applications, while the group plans to create flyers and other promotional materials to spread awareness. You don't have to be in the Madison school district to qualify. Subsidized. Marie asked whether it can have religious programming? Heidi said she would check.

- Adding a Brightwheel curriculum in the fall.
- Keri Poppen is offering to be a sub.
- Furnace for LBPS – Madison went out today...blower replaced by Hooper today and everything is running again..
- Summer Update – assuming it will be full. Have 2 so far from Verona.
handerson@gslcwi.com. They need more kids.

V Reflection/Discussion on Site Visit Information (All)

Mission Statement Development Meeting

The committee discussed creating a mission statement to define its purpose. They agreed to focus on fostering connections between the congregation, preschool staff, and parents.

- Mission Statement on the website.

We work together with families to serve young children in a loving environment. Our school is dedicated to nurturing the child as a whole, including social emotional skills, and Christian values. Patience, compassion, grace, and honesty are used to support the early development of each child and celebrate their accomplishments.

Deni noted the mission should be for the committee, not the school.

Proposed first draft: *The LBPS Committee was created to help Little Blessings be a welcoming, faith-based, child-centered preschool by fostering the connections between the congregation, Little Blessings staff and the parents of the children.*

Deni will draft an initial statement for the group to review. The committee decided to meet at 6:30 PM on May 18th at the Good Shepherd room in Madison. They plan to present the finalized mission statement to the board in May or June. The group also briefly discussed staffing needs and the possibility of opening the meetings to more parents.

There was a roundtable with the group about why they're a part of the committee:

Kelsie – Stay involved in my child's learning community and be an assistant as a parent.

Marie – knowing what's happening in the preschool and helping facilitate and be a liaison to other parents.

Heidi – When I started, it was focused on “Where are we going?” I want to establish continuity in the program. We lost that continuity during COVID and the change in directors.

Linda – It's nice to have different people's viewpoints and input from people.

Emily – I think it's about keeping communication open with parents who need to have places to go. I think it's important to have the congregation involved with preschool. It's a circle of knowledge.

Heidi – should we be inviting parents? Emily – we're not there yet.

Rick - handles the notes. Deni – first draft.

We finished with the Lord's Prayer just before 8 p.m.

Next meeting - Monday, May 18 – 6:30 p.m. Madison

Next steps

- [Linda: Follow up again with GRG Playscapes regarding playground resurfacing \(contact both via email and phone\), and also contact Spencer Johnson on the facilities committee for support/connections.](#)
- [Heidi: Update the website with information about the new Get Kids Ready 4K program by the end of the week, including application details and limited spaces.](#)

- Heidi: Prepare a brief announcement for the church e-news and bulletin about the new 4K program, highlighting 5-day/week, half-day, and contact information for applications.
- Heidi: Investigate whether Christian education components are allowed in the Get Kids Ready 4K program before advertising.
- Deni: Draft a purpose/mission statement for the Little Blessings committee and circulate to the group for feedback within two and a half weeks.
- All committee members: Review Deni's draft purpose/mission statement and provide feedback to Deni within the requested timeline.
- Rick and Heidi: Plan to talk later in the week and do a walkthrough of signage needs; coordinate with Jeff to get quotes for signage options.
- Kelsie: Provide Linda with any contacts for general landscaping companies that could assist with playground resurfacing, if needed.
- Linda: Continue to pursue quotes/options for playground resurfacing and provide updates before the next meeting.
- Emily: Email out the final purpose/mission statement to the committee for approval after incorporating feedback.
- Rick: Present the approved committee purpose/mission statement at the May (or June, if needed) board meeting for final approval.
- Linda: Keep Deni/Rick updated if further support is needed regarding GRG Playscapes or Spencer Johnson.
- Heidi: Prepare advertising/flyers for the 4K program for inclusion in the church bulletin and possibly the next Messenger newsletter.