

Guardian Angels Central Catholic
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2024

Leanne Ritter called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll Call was taken. Board Members present: Fr. Weeder, Leanne Ritter, Matt Ridder, Ryan Steffensmeier, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Mark Wooldrik, Dan Woodbury, Tom Hagedorn, Ben Borgmann, Board Members not present: Jeff Timmerman

Dave Karnopp was introduced to the current members. He will be assisting with the Finance Committee once Ryan Steffensemeier completes his term.

Leanne presented everyone with the April 17, 2024 regular minutes. She also presented a copy of the special meeting notes and asked everyone to review.

Leanne asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ben made the motion.

Tom seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

SPA Report: planning a staff lunch for May 16 at noon for teachers and staff. SPA president for next year will be Kacie Borchers.

Capital Campaign: Lisa said currently we have \$2.8 million in pledged and collected. Has started to slow down some. Currently, there have been only 56 cards returned.

Communication is still the biggest feedback they are receiving from potential donors. Asking for more transparency. Mass announcements will be made this weekend. The next "town hall" will be July 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Not just for the campaign, but also for the school board, Fr.'s updates on possible parish mergers, and Parish Council. This meeting will be open to all.

Fr. provided the committee with bills from Morrissey Engineering; \$13,405 (HVAC) and \$3,300. Tyson Dinslage stated the Capital Campaign will be putting about \$8,000 toward the bathroom remodel and JayFest will give \$60,000.

Lisa asked for volunteers to read the announcements at the weekend masses.

Tina Gentrup is taking pictures of the bathrooms this weekend before the renovations begin. Let Lisa know what other areas need pictures taken for before/after pictures.

Let Lisa know if you want to continue receiving the communication emails from the Capital Campaign. Fr. stated all members of the School Board should continue to be on the emails.

Leanne asked the solicitors to remember to direct people with questions to the website. There is a lot of information, including all meeting notes, located at this site.

Raised over \$2,000 on the Catholic Day of Giving and the Archdiocese also contributed to it as well. Mark mentioned that as a board, we need to be more engaged in the Capital Campaign.

Tracy mentioned the next meeting for the Capital Campaign is June 5 at 5 p.m. and then June 26 at 5 p.m. July 17 at 5p.m. will be the July meeting. August 21 at 4 p.m. will be the August meeting.

Fr. suggested that if the solicitation committee directs people to the website and their questions are not answered there, to give them the contact information of the school board members to reach out to them directly to get their answers. Leanne reminded everyone that her office is also open to answer questions.

Facilities: Matt received a bid for doing the bathrooms, roughly \$69k for the two bathrooms in the high school. Leanne gave a recap of the bathroom remodel. January/February 2024 when the bathroom remodel was discussed, bids were going to be sought from all the contractors who had anything to do with our school. That stopped because it was brought to our attention by the Parish Council that one person was going to donate the entire amount. We asked for a cost so we know how much to check off as the donated amount. Due to circumstances, this person is not donating it. We requested a bid/cost we need to know what we are spending and what we will be receiving. All previous contractors were then contacted again to see if they were interested in giving us a bid. All were interested but could not get the job completed this summer. One contractor does believe he could get it done this summer. Waiting on a final bid from this contractor. Leanne stated that as a new board, we need to set a precedent on how bids are accepted and the process followed. The original contractor will donate any amount over the original bid of \$69,000. Because some of the subcontractors are willing to donate part of their portion, and people have stated they are willing to donate their time to help with demolition, it is essential to get a bid with more detail.

Matt made the motion to get a second bid for the bathroom remodel/renovation. Tracy seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

As of now, the demolition is on hold. It was suggested that John/Justin should make the phone call and then to follow up with an email.

A/C: Many different attempts to get the air conditioning done this summer for the grade school. A contractor would be able to complete it, but it would be a Samsung. All information we have received is that the Samsung equipment is not good. No one can get the Mitsubishi equipment in time for completion this summer. This project will have to be on hold until next summer. Summer of 2025 all 3 buildings will have air conditioning. Window air conditioners will be used on the second floor for the next school year.

Booster Club: Football field will have new light poles installed by next football season. In regard to the set of bleachers that were donated, a decision needs to be made if they are going to be used. If so, they will need to be repaired so they can be used. Shot clocks will be installed this summer. Fr. mentioned that the public school asked the Nielsen Foundation to donate their shot clocks. He was wondering if they could also donate to our football field/shot clocks.

Finance: Ryan asked everyone to review the numbers. Mark made the motion to accept the finance report. Ben seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

John reported regarding the late tuition. We have received over \$10,000 of the past due tuition. Still about \$40,000 to be collected. There is still money in the tuition assistance fund for people who have had financial setbacks.

Governance: Nothing new to report

Communications: We are losing the PR battle. There is a lot of frustration with the changes. There are ways we could be communicating better, and we need to brainstorm on the ways to make the communication more readily available.

Justin's High School Report: Our students are needing to take the school computers home to complete assignments, Justin is proposing a computer insurance program. One suggestion is to have each family pay a \$50 non-fundable/per student/per computer fee that would give the student coverage for a one-time breakage. Anything after that, would be according to the repair schedule. This is not intended to be a money making program. Our current plan is "you break it, you buy it." Another option is for parents to pay \$200/year each year, and when the student graduates, the computer belongs to the graduating student.

Justin also suggested an integrated accounting system for payments within the school. It would help eliminate parents having to send checks/cash to school for all the different things: t-shirts, free dress days, etc. This will be tabled until next school year.

Paula's Elementary School report: Summer office hours are Tuesday/Thursday from 8 to 11 a.m. New staff orientation will be May 30, 2024. Totus Tuus will be June 2-7. Safe Environment training will be June 17, 4-6 p.m. Anyone who volunteers at any level of the school has to be Safe Environment trained. There is no cost for the training.

Dana Leffler asked to speak to the School Board about the importance of volunteering. He spoke at West Point-Beemer's last School Board meeting. He would like to have us speak to the teachers and students, or he is also willing to speak to them about the importance of volunteering. Dana has served on different committees with St. Mary's parish and has been an EMT for 38 years until recently retiring. There was no volunteer to take his place. He would like the opportunity to speak and share his stories of his volunteering experience. He mentioned without volunteerism, we are just a city. Volunteering is what makes us a community. All were in favor of giving Dana the platform to share his message. Fr. Weeder asked if some of the senior

students would be able to do a “ride along.” Dana said this is just his first step. He will also be speaking to the newspapers and legislature. Tracy suggested talking with the P2T program and ask if it could be incorporated in those classes.

Booster Club Activities Fee: In regard to the \$50 activity fee, how is this going to be invoiced/received? Rochelle Kai related to Paula that the tracking of the fee in the past was difficult. Parents did not write down/indicate where this money was supposed to go other than tuition. She is not opposed to collecting it, but it would have to be separate. She also stated that if it is for the Booster Club, it should be collected by the high school instead. Matt R stated he doesn't feel we should bill for another fee. He suggested it come out of the tuition increase. We would still have a 3 1/2% increase and the Booster Club fee would be paid. Shea mentioned that when this was originally discussed, we were too late to add it to the tuition bill. It was just going to be an additional fee for 3rd-12th grades, capped at \$250/family. This fee covered all of the gym rental fees for sports and camps. The original intent was to streamline the billing for the parents so they were not bringing a \$35 check for each sport season per kid. It should be considered a cost of going to school at GACC. This should be brought up at the November/December meetings, so that it can be put into the budget. There was discussion if the fee should come out of the current tuition, or should a separate letter be sent out asking for the \$50 fee.

Matt Ridder made the motion that the \$50 comes out of the school budget. The budget would have a line item of \$50 per kid to go to Booster Club. Mark seconded the motion. In favor: Matt, Carmen, Tracy, Mark, Dan, Tom, and Ben. Opposed: Leanne. Abstain: Ryan. Motion carried.

Rochelle will figure out what the dollar amount would be.

Ryan S brought two versions of the balanced budgets based upon the decision of the Booster Club, we have about a \$6.7 million dollar budget. It is balanced because of a plug line from the Capital Campaign going to teachers compensation. There is an expense item missing called After School Program that did not have a number in it. It needs to be reviewed again. He will bring it back balanced.

Leanne made a motion to go to Executive Session for the SWOT presentation.

After the SWOT presentation, the Board returned to regular session. Leanne brought up the last item that was not on the agenda, the senior prank. Justin reviewed all of the damage that was done. At that time, it was determined to call the police department to document the damages for insurance purposes. All senior parents were mailed a letter explaining what happened and an accounting of the damage done. We want to present a united front so that this type of thing does not happen again. It took eight staff members and their children a little over an hour to clean up the damage. A list was generated of all items that were destroyed. A follow up letter was sent to the senior parents asking them to contribute their portion to defray the cost of the damages, roughly \$36 per student. No course of discipline has been handed out other than the letter that was sent. They do know which faculty member's key fob was used to gain access to

the building. It was discussed that we need to make upgrades to our camera systems and lights. According to the handbook, it is the parent's responsibility to make restitution.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Schwer