

Guardian Angels Central Catholic
School Board Minutes
August 21, 20204
6:30pm Rectory

Matt Ridder called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll Call was taken. Board Members present: Matt Ridder, Fr. Weeder, Ben Borgmann, David Karnopp, Allyn Knobbe, Leanne Ritter, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Mark Wooldrik. Board Members not present: Dan Woodbury. Others in attendance: Andrew Bradley, Justin Wardyn, Paula Peatrowsky, Sue Wolff, Vicki Kauffold - Superintendent of Omaha Archdiocese Catholic Schools, Lisa Eisenmenger - Chair of the Capital Campaign.

Matt asked everyone to review the July minutes. No corrections were made.

Committee Reports:

Booster Club - Shea was not present. Booster Club Steak Supper was well attended.

Development - Will get it going soon.

SPA- provided snacks for teachers and staff for back to school and during benchmark testing.

Leanne asked Justin Wardyn to ask Teresa Hasenkamp to include School Board committee chairs to be included in the initial email she sends to request items for the School Board Agenda each month.

Capital Campaign - Total progress to date is \$3.373 million. We have collected \$1.195 million. We have spent \$40k. We have had 100 cards turned in from local parishioners and a total of 131 pledges returned. The next big task in the next couple of weeks is contacting alumni. The letter is planned to be mailed along with the campaign flyer and an explanation of the process for how to donate to the campaign. We may be using a Venmo account to help facilitate the process. The t-shirt design has been finalized. Any alumni who donate over \$200 will get the t-shirt. There will be an online store that will help with the ordering process. Katie Hunke Schrad has also agreed to help with the process. We will be doing more mass announcements in the near future. We also want to set a goal of how many people we would like to see give a donation. It was asked when the school would need the \$98k that will be given to the schools to help with the teachers' salary. Mark W. reminded school board members that it is a requirement that the school board be a part of the campaign and participate in the meetings. The next meeting is September 4 at 4 p.m. in the Rectory.

In September we should find out if we were awarded a grant through the Archdiocese. It was discussed again the need for having events to promote the campaign to alumni in Omaha and/or Lincoln areas.

Facilities – The bathroom project is stalled at the moment - waiting on wall brackets that we were shorted. We should have them within the week. They are functional, just not totally finished. Leanne reached out to Nate at Morrissey to see if he would be okay working with Rutts as a design-build type project for the high school. He thought it would work. Nate was going to reach out to Rutts. Fr. asked if we needed Morrissey at this point. Leanne said that since we have already paid them, we should get the design portion finished. We will not have to pay for the bidding process or for construction oversight.

Finance - Dave K. said we need to have a motion to have new signers on the accounts. Leanne made the motion to approve GACC President Andrew Bradley for full authority over all accounts, as well as to add him as a signer, along with High School Principal Justin Wardyn and High School Principal Paula Peatrowsky on checks drawn on any and all school accounts. Mark W. seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Advancement - Carmen said It was talked about keeping the name of this committee as Development because the community is more familiar with this term. It was also discussed that this committee may need to have its own board because of all of the marketing and fundraising involved with this committee. May need an interim account for money raised. No decision was made on this.

President's Report - Andrew mentioned he was still meeting with members of the community and the school board. He will continue to meet with them. He is open to suggestions of others he should meet with. For example he has met with the pastor and principal of St. Paul's school. Open the relationship to send more of their students to GACC. He also met with Gina of Pathways to Tomorrow. Andrew has also had conversations with DJ Weddle, Superintendent of West Point-Beemer Public Schools. He had a good meeting with him.

During the faculty meeting he stressed three things: 1) He believes that the Catholic school is not a business, but needs to operate under business principles 2) the importance of transparency 3) the school must be authentically Catholic and this begins with how we treat each other.

High School - Justin mentioned the Archbishop's Dinner to honor Kim Knobbe. Erv and Elaine Eisenmenger are a host couple for this event. The school purchased three tables. Currently, looking for donors to offset this cost.

Looking into a new student information system that would replace Sycamore, the system we currently use. This system would show student information/process payments/process tuition. The teachers are looking at the teacher piece and soon Justin wants to invite parents to view it. It would be a lot of work to switch to it, so it needs to make sense to all parties involved. Finally, Gallup Strength Finders was done with all of the staff members. Each discovered their top five signature strengths. It is intended to help morale and build a stronger team.

Grade School - Paula indicated they had a wonderful first day of school. Two hundred seventy-four children came to school on the first day. The grade school welcomed three new teachers, and classrooms have been rearranged to accommodate the new classes. They have been

performing all of their drills; fire, tornado, etc. for safety training. The elementary picture day is on Wednesday, August 28. Benchmark testing is currently being done.

HVAC for the elementary and the gyms: Mark, Mike Doyle, Matt, Leanne and Tracy all met with Rutts to go over the plans for the elementary and both gyms. We did also have some feedback from Nate at Morrissey. Nate reviewed them and said the plan would work. Matt wanted to clarify that if we do the one to many at the grade school, we are doing the same system we currently have. However, the system we are proposing has shown a lot of consistency. The Mitsubishi system has been shown to have a great track record. The life expectancy is 20 years.

The updated HVAC numbers are: \$425k for the elementary
 \$245k for the new gym
 \$232k for the old gym

For a total of \$902k, this does not include the electrical. The electrical will not exceed \$50k. This is compared to the previous bid of \$1.7 million. Matt wanted to reiterate he cannot guarantee we will never have a problem with this system, but the savings and the research that has been done will show that this system is the best choice for our campus.

Carmen said the fair board is looking for some used hvac units for the fairgrounds. This may be an option to re-sell some of our equipment.

Vickie wanted to make sure that Jim Stols with the Archdiocese is aware of our plan. Matt will email him to keep him in the loop. The timeline would have a completion date of summer of 2025. Rutts could possibly have the high school done in the summer of 2025 as well.

Ben made the motion, pending Archdiocesan approval, to approve the bid from Rutts. Carmen seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion carried.

There is a donor who questioned if Andrew has a mentor during this first year. This donor is willing to pay to have John Naatz continue to mentor him. There would be no expense to the school. John Naatz has agreed to help. Leanne asked what the process would be. The plan discussed included weekly contact on the phone and monthly face-to-face visits during the first semester. It was suggested that during the second semester John could be the point person for strategic planning. He would also continue to mentor Andrew.

Mark made the motion to accept John Naatz for this mentorship role with Andrew. Ben seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion passed.

Andrew would still continue check-ins with Vicki at the Archdiocesan office.

Committee: The committees are the groups that will be doing the detail work, and then bring their findings/suggestions to the full school board. We need to have action in the committees. The Executive Committee met and it was discussed the need to include additional personnel, who are not on the school board, on the committees. Some could potentially be future school board members, some would have specific expertise in different areas. Overview of the committees is:

Finance: Look at the school budget, policies and procedures for finances.

Governance: Policies and procedures for our schools, as well as recruiting future board members.

Facilities: People with expertise in construction and engineering.

Development: People who have a background in marketing/communication, enrollment, fundraising.

Executive: Has already been established.

There will be two school board members on each committee.

The members of the board suggested different people who each board member thought would bring different talents/ideas to the group. Calls will be made in the next week inviting people to join their committees. Mark asked is this facilities committee “the facility committee” that will look at the new space for the school? A timeline needs to be established for construction of the new space.

Vicki suggested that each sub-committee should have its own charter. The charter would be listed within the handbook. The sizes of the sub-committees can vary year-to-year depending on what projects are going on, or what is in mind for future projects. The expectation is that before the next school board meeting, each committee should be formed, and have had at least one meeting.

Mark asked about a work-study program at the school. This would be a program where students would be able to work for pay or tuition by cleaning the school after hours. This program would be open/available to all students in the school. Development of this program will be tasked to the Finance Committee.

The meeting was closed with the Guardian Angels prayer led by Fr. Weeder.

Leanne made the motion to adjourn the meeting. David seconded. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Schwer