

# School Board Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026 — 6:30 p.m. | Rectory

**Called to order by:** Mark Wooldrik **Opening Prayer:** Father Weeder

## Roll Call

**Present:** Fr. James Weeder; Ben Borgmann; Leanne Ritter; Tracy Schwer; Mark Wooldrik; Britney Kaup; David Karnopp; Eric Klitz; Allyn Knobbe; **Absent:** Carmen Schlickbernd.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Leanne; seconded by Tracy. All in favor. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports

- **Booster Club** - Shea Stokely not present. It was mentioned that the new Conference banners look nice in the gym.
- **SPA** - Jessica Hagedorn was absent. Erika Nesladek provided the report:
  - SPA and Booster Club hosted a trivia night with 17 tables; it was successful with community sponsors including Mike Mundy Themes sponsored by Tyson, Deadstock, and India; Nielsen Center rental sponsored by Let's Get Tropical; Alice Heimann and Connie Eilerts donated more than 270 \$5 items sold throughout the night; Simmer Down donated snacks for judges, referees, and Mike.
  - For Catholic Schools Week: Arranging the movie "David" for the elementary school, sponsored by Ryan Knispel State Farm for \$600; cheesecake for teachers on Friday provided by Alice Heimann, to be purchased by SPA.
  - Planning candy grams with frosted animal crackers at \$1 each; also providing snacks for February parent-teacher conferences.
  - New laminator delivered to elementary school; teachers are excited.
  - Still planning a purchase for the high school once needs are determined.
  - Current cash balance: \$20,492.46; estimated future balance: \$23,357.55.
- **Capital Campaign- Lisa Eisenmenger**
  - Reconciled receipts since 2023; 2025 nearly closed (off by \$1,200.02); full alignment soon.
  - Checking: \$3,507; Edward Jones: \$2,369,000 (includes compounded interest).
  - 377 donors since December 2023; total collected: \$3,594,421.58 (excl. interest/pledges).
  - Outstanding pledges: \$1.374M; 66% collected.
  - 80 donors with balances (not on ACH); 11 unpaid pledges (\$178K total).
  - Sending January reminder letters for balances.

- No recent expenses; owe Rutz \$97K (holding for fixes/retainage).
- High school chillers noted; confirm if campaign-funded; anticipate postage costs.
- Phase two transition discussion; committee meeting on January 28 at 5 p.m. in rectory.
- Joanne to handle 2026 thank-yous; may be Lisa's last report, available for questions.
- **Facilities- Leanne Ritter**
  - Received architect's rendering of exterior option south of activity center, plus interior views; preparing for campaign rollout.
  - Committee to decide on option; awaiting more accurate cost estimate based on value design (eliminate waste, shrink to 100 ft deep; between small/big options).
  - Will get a tentative date for an estimate to schedule a meeting; aim for estimates on all options.
  - Facilities Committee to narrow to one recommendation, then board approval; close to phase two decision.
  - Push for recommendation on next month's agenda.
- **Finance- Dave Karnopp**
  - Committee met prior; recommends 2.25% increase to base salary for teachers resulting in a >3% average raise and 3% for staff.
  - Discussed 2-5 year plan, adjustments, and budget balancing.
  - Question on campaign funds needed for reserves; projection: funds last ~7 years (dynamic, based on tuition, endowments, salaries, utilities, etc.); based on initial \$2M assessment for teachers in 5-year budget.
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- **Governance - Britney Kaup**
  - Planning to identify new board members in the next few months.
- **Advancement/Development- Carmen Schlickberd/Tracy Schwer**
  - No meeting; waiting on final rendering; next is planning the unveiling.
- **Strategic Plan- Leanne Ritter**
  - The committee met twice recently; teachers collected comments, Justin compiled them into public document (detailed working version for staff).
  - Document nearly final (99% done; fixed typos); board to review and provide feedback before next meeting.
  - Paula maintains a working document for updates; aim to finalize the planning process by February.
  - Email any errors for fixes in the living document.
- **Principal Reports- Justin Wardyn; Paula Peatrowsky not present.**
  - Switching from Evangelist Institute to Sofia Institute for School of Faith; cost \$4,000 (vs. current ~\$3,400; \$600 increase); planning on-site dates.
  - Reaching out to nearby schools (Cedar, Humphrey, Howells, Clarkson) to share sessions and split costs based on teacher count (up to 80 people).
  - Considering Deacon Meyer for three 2-hour staff sessions to cover remaining hours; not yet contacted.

- Advancing 1:1 technology: Letters to senior parents for \$250 laptop purchase (wiped clean); \$50 deposit required for commitment.
- Ordering next iPads; next year: 5th, 7th, 8th grades and sophomores receive them; only seniors retain computers (purchasable, cost varies yearly).
- Working with Joyce on handbook updates and state accreditation prep for next fall.

## **New Business**

### **Approve new sick/PTO policy**

- After discussing that GACC is in compliance with the new Healthy Families Act, no major changes proposed, maybe slight wordage changes for compliance

### **Approve salary increases**

- Eric Klitz made a motion to increase teacher base salary by 2.25% and therefore when considering the teacher salary matrix the net increase would be greater than 3%. Support staff to receive a 3% increase.
  - Tracy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Website renewal or change**

- Justin discussed a new website vendor E-Catholic he would like to use. The committee of Justin and teachers are still compiling information and will try to have a recommendation to present in the February board meeting. Tabled to next meeting.

### **2026-27 School Calendar approval**

- Leanne discussed that the calendar needs to be looked at from a new angle by evaluating instructional hours and not just days. Will be tabled until the next board meeting in February.

### **Take action on bids for AC replacement in the High School**

- Leanne presented the bids on the High School AC replacement. Rutts proposed a VRF system for \$505,125. Ortmeier's bid \$597,700. Neither bid included electrical which Jerry Kaup is estimating \$30-40,000. Facilities committee is recommending Ortmeier.
- Leanne made a motion to approve Ortmeier's bid for replacing the AC in the high school building for this summer's construction.
  - Tracy seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Approve the creation of an executive secretary for the development committee, part-time position**

- Leanne made a motion to approve the position,
  - Tracy seconded the motion, motion carried.

Father offered an update on the Convent. Jim with the Archdiocese is requesting the parish hold a townhall. The Archdiocese would like to have the school board present at this townhall regarding its facilities' future plan.

**Executive Session** — Entered and exited.

**Closing Prayer:** Father Weeder

**Adjournment:** Motion by Britney; seconded by Allyn. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,** Eric Klitz