

Guardian Angels Central Catholic

School Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 15, 2023

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish rectory.

Leanne Ritter called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll call was taken. Board members present included: Matt Ridder, Leanne Ritter, Ryan Steffensmeier, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Mark Wooldrik, Dan Woodbury, Tom Hagedorn.

Board members not present: Jeff Timmerman and Ben Borgmann.

School Administration present: Justin Wardyn and Paula Peatrowsky.

School Organization Representative not present: Nikki Schmader (SPA) and Shea Stokely (Booster Club).

Leanne asked all present to review the October minutes. Dan made the motion to approve the minutes.

Tom seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leanne would like to start a new process at the beginning of each meeting so we remember why we are all here. She began by reading the mission statement, "To prepare all students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ," and the vision statement, "Guardian Angles Central Catholic will strive to provide a safe, secure learning environment as we welcome students from West Point and all surrounding communities. Our school recognizes each student as an individual while continuing an uncompromising commitment to excellence in Catholic education. This faith-based foundation empowers students to live lives of faith, learning, leading, and service."

Committee Reports

Booster Club: Nothing new or out of the normal. Introduced the Fine Arts fundraiser. It will be a raffle on Facebook, and will benefit GACC's fine arts programs.

Development: Nothing to report.

SPA: Bowling for each grade. November 18 is the paper drive. Chamber bucks for the teacher funds will start November 27.

Facilities: met, via Zoom, with Morrissey Engineering – three options for the HVAC system in the elementary and high school buildings. Lots of pros/cons to each. No dollar amounts provided at this time. Still have more questions than answers at this time, so not ready to make any decisions. Another meeting with the engineer and some of our local people, who may work on the equipment so we are considering their expertise as well, will be set.

Finance: We are 1/3 of the way through the fiscal year and all the expenses are in line. Mark made a motion to approve the finance report.

Carmen seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Teacher: Joyce Stalp is going to find some things to set out on the GACC table to attract potential student teachers to our school. Have Connor Kreikemeier put together a short video of our schools. Paula is working on a display board to use at teacher fairs. Joyce spoke with Erv about housing. They are willing to cut the rent in half and the Stalp foundation will cover the other half. We would need to furnish the apartment. Talked about a student teacher bonus, but still need to speak with Fr. Weeder about this. Also need to update our brochures. Need to ask Connor Kreikemeier to get hold of Justin regarding the model some other schools are using. Would like to use our Digital Marketing class to help with this.

Communications: Fr. Weeder had received an email about promoting schools.

Fr. Weeder: nothing new to report

New Business:

Justin said the math teachers have narrowed down the selection to two different companies. He is receiving bids from these companies. The amount would be around \$42,000 for a 6-year contract. The other company, and the one preferred by the teachers, was \$33,500 for a 6-year contract. Not able to use the new Book Loan law as it is currently stuck in committee. Once this passes, it would offset a lot of the cost. Is it worth investing now or waiting a year to help offset the cost? Fr. Weeder asked what the teachers thought. They are willing to wait a year. Mark asked how much the savings would be. Justin said it would be approximately half of the amount. The Law has passed, however the rules are being worked through. It was the consensus that we hold off on new books for one year, but make the commitment to purchase the books next year, regardless of the new book bill.

Paula said they were in the midst of a food drive at school. They have already shipped out 7-8 boxes to the local food pantry. The Book Fair will be starting soon and runs through Grandparents Mass on November 22. Joyce Stalp has offered to give each teacher a couple hundred dollars to bring some new books into their classrooms. Grandparents Mass is on November 22 in the activity center. The K-12 Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 13, at the Nielsen Center.

Governance Plan: Leanne indicated they have not changed much since the last meeting, but it has gone to Pat Flood. He is the attorney for the Archdiocese. He is still reviewing it. Vicki has brought it to the Archbishop, and he has approved us moving to a Board of Limited Jurisdiction as long as Pat Flood approves. Now, we need to send a letter to the Archdiocese that Fr. Weeder, Leanne, and Tyson Dinslage (for parish council) have to sign stating we want to transition to this governance plan. Parish council met last week and had a few questions. Fr. Weeder stated they were sent the wrong bylaws and he has emailed them the most current bylaws along with a survey monkey asking if they approve the bylaws and handbook. He has only had one person respond. He re-sent and six of the 12 have responded. They have all responded "yes" so far. Ryan recapped what the role of the governance board would be: The Board of Limited Jurisdiction is not involved in the hiring/firing of faculty. Not involved with curriculum, outside of paying for it. That is the job of the President and Principals. The major goal of the board is continuing the Catholic success of the school. Making sure the school continues to exist and operate long term. It also hires the President. Leanne asked for a motion to approve. Tracy made the motion to approve.

Mark seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leanne spoke about Norman Ridder, who met with the committee. Norman has vast experience with schools. He is now involved with consulting. He helps recruit administrators across the nation. Norman has provided a contract to us to help us find and fill the position of president. He is donating his time,

but there is some cost associated with the people who work for him. His company would announce the vacancy, conduct the search for the president, advertise for us throughout all of their avenues, recruit applicants, help us determine compensation parameters, and assist us in screening the applicants. His fee would be \$4,000. He is confident we could have a president hired for next school year. Norm has potentially found us an interim president who could possibly start once we get the green light from the Archdiocese.

Fr. Weeder gave an update from the Monday Archdiocesan meeting. Buzz word that night was "substantial." Fr. Weeder got further definition. Naming an evangelization coordinator was the first. This person needs to set up a meeting with Phil L. The second item was Administrative Complexity. This person would be the point person with Phil L. In Fr. Hasting's eye, this would be enough to move forward. Tomorrow night they should have a name for the evangelization committee. Fr. Weeder is hoping by the end of the week to have someone appointed for the Administrative Complexity. Once these have been done, we should be able to move forward with the Capital Campaign.

Next meeting will be December 20, 2023

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Schwer