

School Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026 — 6:30 p.m. | Rectory

Called to order by: Leanne Ritter **Opening Prayer:** Leanne Ritter

Roll Call

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

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

Committee Reports

Booster Club / SPA- Kylie Kai

- Trivia Night fundraiser generated \$2,300 each for SPA and Booster Club.
- Catholic Schools Week activities were well-received, including the SPA-sponsored movie and cheesecake for staff and students.
- Candy grams generated a \$360 profit.
- Teacher lounges at both schools were restocked with supplies as a gesture of appreciation.
- Drive-through dinner scheduled for March 25, featuring steak sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, vegetables, and a cookie.
- Request received for new playground sand toys.

Facilities Committee- Leanne Ritter

- Facilities Committee met and reviewed the architect's cost estimate for an addition to the south side of the old gym.
- Because the property belongs to the parish, the proposal will first be presented to Parish Council before board approval.
- Project approval will likely be revisited next month.

Proposed project includes:

- Early childhood classrooms
- New band room
- Renovated stage
- Renovated junior high locker rooms
- Art room
- 2,000+ square foot flex space for activities such as wrestling, cheer, dance, or meetings
- The estimated cost is approximately \$5.5 million.

Committee also discussed the construction of a bus storage building to replace the rented storage space, currently costing about \$1,000/mo, which is set to increase to \$1,100/mo.

Finance Committee- Eric Klitz/Sue Wolff

- The finance report and budget were reviewed.
- Work continues with Randy Weise on processes aligned with the strategic plan.
- Administrative contracts were reviewed with school leadership.

Motion to approve the finance report made by Carmen, seconded by Allyn.
Motion carried.

Governance Committee- Carmen Schlickbernd

- Governance Committee continues identifying and recruiting potential new board members.

Development Committee- Carmen Schlickbernd

- Development planning continues alongside the facilities project.
- Discussion included securing early donor commitments prior to a public campaign rollout.
- Donor database setup within FACTS is being coordinated.
- Potential future alumni engagement events were discussed, including a gala or revival of the Blue Ribbon Dinner.

Strategic Plan- Leanne Ritter

Board members reviewed the draft strategic plan.

Discussion included:

- Ensuring student voice and representation within the Student Life section.
- Possible additions, such as student surveys or student council involvement.
- Updating photos in the document with current students.

The strategic plan will be revisited next month after revisions.

Principal Reports- Justin & Paula

- Reading Curriculum Committee selected Magnetic Literacy (Science of Reading / Archdiocesan aligned)
 - Funding sources
 - Textbook Loan Program
 - SPA support
- All elementary letters of intent returned (strong staff retention)
 - Teacher contracts to include
 - job descriptions

- confidentiality statements
 - Staffing
 - Music teacher hired
 - Art teacher: candidate interviewed, verbal offer extended
- Recruitment
 - Letters sent to St. Wenceslaus (Dodge) families due to school closing
 - Families invited to visit / tour
 - ~12 families (≈15 students) may seek enrollment
- Academic calendar
 - 169 student days / 185 teacher days
 - School start remains after the Cuming County Fair
 - Catholic Schools Week: full week ending with First Friday Mass
 - Staff faith formation days included
 - Deacon Meiergerd's possible support for staff formation
- Student service hour tracking reviewed
 - FACTS parent portal (free)
 - Helper Helper app (~\$750/year)
 - Board recommendation: continue using FACTS for now

New Business

Additional Transit Vans

A discussion was held regarding transportation needs due to the difficulty in finding bus drivers.

Key points:

- Increased certification requirements have reduced the available drivers.
- Some teams are small enough to travel by van rather than by bus.
- Two additional transit vans may improve scheduling flexibility.
- The estimated cost for used vans is approximately \$20,000 each.
- The bus fund currently holds sufficient reserves.

The board agreed to explore purchasing two additional transit vans, potentially with towing capability.

Public Comment

A group of parents attended the meeting to share concerns with the board. Time was provided for them to speak, and the board listened to and acknowledged the concerns presented. Tiffany Kreikemeier requested to be on the agenda for the next school board meeting.

Executive Session

Upon recommendation of the Archdiocese Office of Catholic Schools, the board moved into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned following the motion to enter Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Klitz