

Guardian Angels Central Catholic

School Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board met on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the old convent.

Leanne Ritter called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Leanne recited the Mission Statement for GACC.

Roll call was taken. Board members present included: Leanne Ritter, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Mark Wooldrik, Dan Woodbury, Tom Hagedorn, Jeff Timmerman, Ben Borgmann.

Board members not present: Matt Ridder and Ryan Steffensmeier.

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 November minutes. Dan made the motion to approve the minutes.

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

**Committee Reports**

Booster Club: Nothing new or out of the normal. Fine Arts fundraiser seems to be going very well.

Development: Nothing to report.

SPA: Nothing to report

Facilities: A zoom meeting was held with Morrissey Engineering, and they provided two more options for the schools. This is a more simplified and something our local contractors would be able to help us out in the future with service work. No cost has been given at this time. We asked them to have some costs associated with the plans. Hope to decide by first part of 2024.

Finance: Justin stated that the checks are due earlier for the Dinklage scholarships. We have to pay the colleges and then Dinklage reimburses the school. The General Operating account will be running short after payroll on December 15. The CD that came due last month, we moved to our general operating to cover shortfalls. The other CD comes due Friday, and will go into the money market and we can pull from that in the future to cover shortfalls. The Endowment was planning on making their next contribution. They have pledged \$360,000, and YTD they have paid \$150,000. They will make another payment. Tracy made the motion to approve the finance report.

Dan seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Governance: Fr. Weeder mentioned last week we were given the final draft to proof. Fr. Weeder read through once again and he has some concerns. The Bylaws state the Board of Directors would elect new members and the handbook says the parishes would vote on new members. Fr. Weeder asked for

clarification on this. The Governance committee would like to have the board appoint one member annually and have each of the assessed parishes vote for two members annually. The board will select six potential members to be on the ballot. Anyone can nominate themselves or another person as a candidate. It is important that we include all parishes that pay an assessment to our schools, so they have a say on who will be representing them. The board should have 1/3 appointed by the board and 2/3 by vote of the parishes. This will help to keep the board diversified. Another clarification Fr. Weeder asked for was looking at the corporation itself. Currently, the grade school is a mission of the parish and the high school is a separate corporation. Under the new corporation, the grade school and the high school would be one as Guardian Angels Central Catholic. Regarding the finances, Fr. Weeder wanted to make sure the pastor of St. Mary's would have the ability to review all accounts, not that he has the ability to change accounts, just that he can review the accounts. Second, would the pastor still be a signer on all the accounts? For example, if the principal is gone and a check would need to be signed, Father can sign now. Would the new President be the primary signer and the pastor would still be a secondary? Having two signers on each check would not alleviate extra work for our pastor. Pat is going to make the changes and get the revised versions out to us. Once the changes come, Fr. Weeder will sign off as the Secretary. Once all the paperwork is done, Vicki will come to the next meeting, or a special meeting, to do our orientation regarding all the new rules, what is expected of us, and what our duties are moving forward. This will be the next step.

Teacher Recruitment: Paula indicated they have purchased gadgets and items for giveaways at the Wayne State teacher fair. Connor Kreikemeier is working on a recruitment video of 3-5 minutes in length that we can run at the fair. We may have our 1<sup>st</sup> grade position filled for next year. We are in full swing for recruiting now. The employment tab has been updated on our website. It was suggested that we move the open positions to the top of the page. John Paul Newman Center at UNO has posted our flyer. Fr. Weeder followed up with Joyce Stalp about the stipend for student teachers. This is still a possibility. Joyce is working with Wendy Ridder to set this up.

Communications: Tina Biteghe and Michelle Borgmann are working on the updates for the Capital Campaign. Is there a way to convey the Governance plan to the public? There are questions in the public as to why we are doing this. It was suggested that we could put something online or in the bulletin to present to the public. Publishing the hierarchy graph would be helpful, as well as comparing the current structure to new structure, and explaining the intent of the changes.

Campaign Committee: Justin Steffensmeier spoke about the meeting they had last Saturday morning in the GA cafeteria. Approximately 50-60 people were in attendance. Very positive overall he felt. It will be a \$9 million campaign. He felt the first tier of teacher salary and building maintenance were well received. Tier 2 had more debate. There was discussion as far as different options. The second tier will not start until the money is raised. There was a lot of excitement and momentum from the meeting. The goal of phase 1, should have an idea in two years of how successful we will be.

Fr. Weeder: Creating subcommittees. For example, the Finance committee will consist of someone from the endowment committee, parish council, and school land committee. In the October minutes, it was asked if the pastor would have veto rights. People thought the school board took this out of the bylaws. This was never in the bylaws. The pastor can always go to the Archbishop. The tuition needs to be further discussed. We need to do our due diligence before we can determine what the increase would be. Creating a flow chart comparing the current structure to the new structure was discussed. Currently, the Archdiocese is at the top, then the pastor, next the principals, and finally the teachers.

Under the new governance, it would still have Archdiocese at the top, then the board of limited jurisdiction, of which the pastor is a part, the president, the principals, and then the teachers.

New Business:

Justin mentioned Kim Knobbe was the Teacher of the Week. Beginning in January our enrollment will be online. This will only include newly enrolled students at this time. The next goal is for the start of the 2025-2026 school year to have all students re-enroll online. This should help keep the contact information updated with all the families. We may have a new Spanish teacher.

Questions regarding enrollment were raised. Currently, and in the past, it has been on a first-come-first-serve basis. We have never had to turn away anyone who is Catholic and wants to send their child to our school. It was suggested that people who are members of the corporation will get priority as opposed to time and date of enrollment.

Paula thanked everyone for their support of the Christmas program. Letters of intent are due back on January 12. CPR training will happen on January 3. Would like to have an idea of the tuition rates for the next year. We need to figure out how to address the shortfalls we currently have. We do have a commitment for the new president's salary for three years. If we have a full staff, how will we pay for that? The deficit needs to be addressed soon. As tuition goes up, how well is it followed up with families who go to the public school and leave our school? Do we know what the statistic is with losing families due to a tuition increase? It was discussed that we should start meeting with the Land LLC people, the endowment committee, parish council, and school board need to meet to begin talking about tuition. All of these groups need to have a say in the tuition talks. This needs to be addressed soon. There was discussion in regard to scheduling a special meeting. Round-up/Information night is January 24. Doing an outreach to the above-mentioned groups to begin the talks. We should have all the boards together in one place to begin the discussion of what we can do/expect regarding tuition. We currently have 44 students who come from parishes that do not have an assessment. As of this year, it costs the high school \$11,855 per child to educate a year, and it costs \$8,049 per child per year in the grade school. Currently, for the high school, \$5,500 of the tuition comes from tuition and parish assessment. Teacher salaries and benefits are approximately 85% of the budget. Justin said he would work to gather the additional information needed for the 10-year projections. He was also going to ask Ryan Steffensmeier to help him with putting the numbers together. In the email survey to the other groups, we need to list the bullet points (corporation vs non-corporation, breakdown of multiple children in family rates, Catholic vs. non-Catholic, assessment by each parish) so they can come to the meeting prepared. February 7 or 21 are possible dates for the future budget meeting. The next school board meeting has to be changed to January 10 because of First Reconciliation. Lee Schroeder, West Point Public Ag teacher, asked about coordinating calendars with West Point-Beemer Public in regard to days off as much as possible.

Fr. Weeder offered a closing prayer.

Mark made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be January 10, 2024.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Schwer