

**Guardian Angels Central Catholic  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board met on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish Rectory.

Ryan Steffensmeier called the meeting to order.

Father Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll call was taken. Board members present included: Brenda Duhsman, Danelle Smith, Ryan Steffensmeier, Justin Steffensmeier, Leanne Ritter, Michelle Borgemann, Ashley Strehle, Tom Hagedorn, Paula Peatrowsky, Kate Hagemann, and Father Weeder.

Board members not present: Jeff Timmerman and Sue Kreikemeier

School Organization Representatives present: Paul & Jackie Ridder (Development Committee), Danelle Ehrisman (Booster Club)

School Organization Representatives not present: Renee Schmid (SPA)

Ryan Steffensmeier asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes. Danelle Smith made the motion to approve the minutes and Ashley Strehle seconded the motion. The September 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

**Booster Club:** Report was given by Danelle Ehrisman. The booster club is working to make people more aware of the events they are working on and what the money is used for by posting the meeting minutes on the school website. They're still looking for a vice president. The school board spent some time discussing options to get more people involved and volunteering to help with activities. Options were to make it mandatory to sign up for duties such as gate, split-the-pot, concessions, etc. or tax each student/family with an activity fee. No decision was made.

**Development Committee:** Paul Ridder gave a report on the development meeting they had in the previous week. People in attendance were Father Weeder, Bob Wortman, Dan Hakel, Michelle Cohee, Eddie Linnenbrink, Adam Kampschneider, Miker Bailey, and Paul and Jackie Ridder. They updated the committee chairs. Adam Kampschneider is the alumni representative. Michelle Cohee and Paula Peatrowsky are the recruiting leaders and are focusing on the recruitment of pre-school and early elementary age kids. Bob Wortman oversees the buses. Mike Bailey is a SESP representative and will look into estate planning for our school.

Teacher salary was discussed and how the development committee might be asked to help with the increased budget spending to get the salaries in a competitive position with other surrounding schools.

**SPA:** Paula gave the SPA report. SPA has been hosting the elementary bowling activities which has been held during the end of the school day rather than after school and has gotten positive feedback on the time change. They recently hosted the Harvest Moon Pumpkin Patch evening for elementary families. There were 145 people in attendance. Uniform distribution during PT Conferences had minimal response and SPA will try again during the next PT Conferences. They're not accepting any more donations of used uniforms because their stock is full. They've had a lot of people recycling cardboard.

**Facilities Committee:** Nothing

**Finance Committee:** Justin Steffensmeier gave an update. We're 24% through the school year. There is nothing that he sees soon that would put us over the budget. St. Mary's has only put in 2% of their budgeted GA contributions, which is normal for this time of year. No changes/additions made to the report. Danelle made the motion to approve, and Ashley seconded.

**School Board President's Report:** Nothing

**School Principal's Report (Kate):**

- There have been a couple student cases of covid. There are a few students out of school due to covid exposure. It is currently recommended that the entire class quarantine when at least 3 students have tested positive. We have not yet had to implement this procedure. If a student has been exposed, it is not a mandate that he/she must quarantine. They may come to school but must self-monitor for 10 days.
- Hand-foot-mouth has gone through the Junior High.
- Homecoming went well.
- PT Conferences in the high school were poorly attended.
- The Wayne State recruit for teaching the second semester fell through; she took a different position.
- The art teacher's wife will be filling in as a sub during Kacie Borchert's maternity leave.
- Parents still need to take the accreditation survey. We still need 75 participants.
- Monday, November 8 at 10am will be the School Board's accreditation meeting. It will be via Zoom. The rectory meeting room will be available.

Kate provided salary and insurance information for our school and from surrounding schools. Drew Wimer was in attendance to discuss the insurance plan that is currently offered to the school faculty which is the Archdiocese Group plan. He explained that the plan we currently offer is a very good benefit and while it may be an expensive premium fee for our school and for the teachers who opt in their family, it is considerably less expensive and risky than if we moved to our own group plan. We have options to have the faculty fill out an insurance survey every year that will then go through underwriting to determine if we are eligible. Being eligible one year does not mean we would be eligible the following year. If there would be too many claims, the company could terminate our plan at the end of the year, leaving us to apply for something else. Either way, the insurance survey would need to be filled out annually. At the end of the insurance discussion, it was decided that we need to remain on the current Archdiocese plan and do a better job marketing to our current staff and potential hires what exactly we offer and what the value of the offered benefits is.

The board decided our next option for being competitive in the compensation packages is to do a salary/wage increase and possibly some family insurance premium compensation. Everyone needs to study the information that Kate handed out and come back in November with some ideas.

- The finance committee and anyone else interested in attending, will meet with Jerome Steffen to better understand what money we have and where we could pull money from to help with this budget increase.
- It was mentioned that the parish's assessment has not been recently increased and that may be an option for financial help.
- Tuition increases 2% annually and it is not an option to increase that any more for budget purposes.
- We can look at paying a percentage of the family insurance along with some sort of wage increase.
- SESP was set up to help with these kind of budget issues.

Father will invite Jerome Steffen to the November finance committee meeting prior to the school board meeting. Anyone besides the finance committee is welcome to attend.

**School Principal's Report (Paula):** PT Conferences went well and were well attended. Safe Environment training will be October 27 at 6:30 in the cafeteria. FYI- the school sends out reminders when your safe environment certificate is about to expire.

**Comments from Father Weeder:** Need to start the principal search back up. Father will contact Vicki at the Archdiocese about helping with the search. We are also looking for a head cook.

**Classroom Remodel Committee:** Leanne gave an update on the convent project. Paul, Paula, and Leanne brought the idea to the Parish Council last week and had unanimous approval to move forward using the convent to remodel into the 3 early elementary classrooms we need. Father will talk to the Adoration Hour and Family Faith Formation chairs to let them know what we are planning so they are aware that we will be moving their meeting locations around but will definitely make sure they have a good place to meet. The next step is to meet with the early elementary teachers to discuss the flow of the floorplan and how their day-to-day routines will work in the space. Then we will give that information to Jackson and Jackson to work up a new floorplan and get started on the building plans. Our goal is to begin demolition this winter with volunteer help.

Father Weeder led us in prayer to end the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

Justin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tom seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leanne Ritter