

**Guardian Angels Central Catholic  
School Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board met on Wednesday, September 15, 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, Sue Kreikemeier, Leanne Ritter, Michelle Borgemann, Ashley Strehle, Paula Peatrowsky, Kate Hagemann, and Father Weeder.

Board members not present: Jeff Timmerman and Tom Hagedorn

School Organization Representatives present: Paul & Jackie Ridder (Development Committee)

School Organization Representatives not present: Danelle Ehrisman (Booster Club) and Renee Schmid (SPA)

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

Committee Reports

**Booster Club:** Report was given by Kate Hagemann. There hadn't been a monthly meeting yet so there was no news available. A family has come forward to offer to donate half of a new football scoreboard, but there haven't been quotes or proposals solicited for a new board of any sort.

**Development Committee:** Paul Ridder gave an update on the fire sprinkler system. The Fire Marshall was needing to witness the pressure testing on the lines. The high school was close to being finished. At the grade school, the attic needs to be finished but that won't happen until the weather is consistently cooler, later this year.

Paul also discussed with the Board his proposal to create a committee to work with the architectural firm, Jackson and Jackson to complete an assessment on the convent building for its potential use for additional classroom space for GA. He said the fee for Jackson and Jackson's services for the study will be paid for privately. Paula discussed that the enrollment trend is on a steady climb and there will be enough space for the 2022-2023 school year; however, there won't be enough classroom space the year after that. Every class will be a split class for the school year of 2023-2024.

Ryan Steffensmeier asked for a motion to approve the formation of a committee to include Ryan Steffensmeier, Justin Steffensmeier, Leanne Ritter, Paul & Jackie Ridder, Paul Peatrowsky, and Father Weeder for the convent study. Ashley made the motion and Sue seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**SPA:** Kate Hagemann updated us with the activities planned that included K-6 Bowling and the Oakland Pumpkin Patch outing for all GA families. SPA will be providing food for the staff during PT Conferences. The paper trailer is nearly full. SPA will sponsor the social media speaker, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Facilities Committee:** Nothing

**Finance Committee:** Tuition dollars for GA are covering expenses for now. Financials currently for both schools are as budgeted. Brenda asked why the Miscellaneous Expense – Reimbursable for GA went from \$405.94 to \$11,061.96 since last month. Kate said she would check on it and send an email out with the answer. Danelle made a motion to approve the financial report and Ashley seconded.

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

**School Principal's Report (Kate):** There has been 1 positive covid case, being a staff member who is currently in quarantine and no covid cases amongst the students.

Kate attended the WSC Student Teacher fair and was able to put together a list of WSC students interested in student teaching at GACC. She met an English Major who will be graduating in December 2021. Kate will be setting up an interview with her to possibly hire her for the second semester of this school year.

It was asked how our teacher wages compare to other schools in our area. After a long discussion, we learned that we currently pay our teachers less on average than most of the rural catholic schools in the surrounding area. Kate will find out what other schools do for insurance and compensation packages for their teachers so we can discuss at the meeting next month what we need to do to better compensate our teachers.

*Notes: Current maximum starting wage \$28/hr. Salary cap of \$45,000. 50% off tuition. 3% match on retirement plan. Insurance paid 100% for staff; nothing paid for dependents and/or spouse.*

Homecoming will be at the Dinklage Building on the Fairgrounds.

**School Principal's Report (Paula):** The afterschool program has 50+ kids on some days. Paula has called on more GA teachers to help as needed.

Picture retake day has been moved to September 28.

Safety drills have been practiced.

Accreditation time is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November. Paula asked for the board's approval to have a day off school this month so the staff can work on gathering the necessary evidence for the accreditation submittal. Board agreed.

The Archbishops Dinner for Education will be September 23, 2021 and will recognize Joyce Ortmeier!

At 7:48 pm, Justin made the motion to enter executive session and Sue seconded.

At 8:16 pm, Brenda made the motion to exit executive session and Sue seconded.

**Comments from Father Weeder:** A third party has made an accusation of professional misconduct has been made toward Father Steve. On August 18, an investigation was conducted by the Nebraska State Patrol, which concluded on August 24, without finding evidence of criminal behavior. On August 25 the Archdiocese began

their internal investigation. On September 10, Father Steve was given the choice to resign or be removed from his current assignment. Father Steve chose to resign. Father Weeder assured us that the third party is not a member from our community and was only doing what he/she thought was the right thing to do. The local family that the accusation was based on does not agree that Father Steve should have been forced to resign and are standing behind him as is our entire community.

Father Weeder led us in prayer to end the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2021, at 6:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Leanne Ritter