

**Saint Katharine Drexel School  
Committee Minutes  
1/12  
7:00 pm via zoom**

**Attendees:**

Principal Jennifer Crombie, Angela Zwald (President), Mark Roedl (Vice-President), Sarah Bindl (Secretary), Jennifer Wendorf, John Bowser Danielle Paul, Marybeth Schessow, Greg Steil, Jennifer Nampel

Absent: Estella Calvo-Gil

**Call to Order:**

Angela Zwald, Committee President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Opening Prayer:**

Opening prayer was led by Angela Zwald (Greg is assigned for February).

**Introduction of Guests:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

John Bowser made a motion to approve the November minutes followed by Greg Steil.

**Roundtable - Share something positive:**

Sarah Bindl shared that she appreciates the strong faith-based education her kids are receiving. It's precious to hear how the lessons are transferred to home situations.

Father Mike shared there are three couples signed up for weddings and each couple consists of one SKDS alumni!

Danielle Paul shared that the Christmas program was beautiful and she is thankful we were able to do what we have always done but in a different way.

## Administrator's Report:

1. The Board of Directors of WRISA proudly announces the accreditation of St. Katharine Drexel School. St. Katharine Drexel School complies with the WRISA educational Standards and is a member in good standing.
2. The Wisconsin Parental School Choice application period is from Monday, February 1, to Thursday, April 15. The 2021-2022 School Choice information and application materials are not available from DPI yet, but should be soon. I am beginning to update the letters and information that went out last year to our SKD Religious Education families, and our 4K and 5K families. Last year, I also put information on our Facebook page, the school website and in the bulletin. This year I am working with Connie Caine from the Tri-Parishes to share the information to those families, and I will be sure to get the Choice information on the parish Facebook page and parish website as well. I am going to meet with Fr. Sergio so he can share the information at the Spanish Mass also. If anyone has any other ideas on how to recruit new Choice families, please let me know. My goal is to increase our number from 29 Choice students to 40 students for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Wisconsin Forward Exam Update: The 2021 assessment window opens March 22 and runs through April 30. The Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. These standards outline what students should know and be able to do to be college and career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online at:
  - ~grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics,
  - ~grades 4 and 8 in science and,
  - ~grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.This is the first year SKDS students will be taking the Forward Exam. Judy Wilson is working on ensuring that the devices we have are all capable of administering the test for grades 3-8.

4. Forensics Update: The following letter went home today with Forensics Students. *This year has been challenging in many ways and our Forensics program has had to adapt to the situation as other programs have had to as well. Our middle school forensic association, MFLA, has chosen a virtual forensic platform with greatly reduced number of competitions and elimination of the group categories for this season. There were many other changes that would take place and the logistics of this virtual program seemed daunting for us and many other schools to pursue.*

*However, the Beaver Dam Middle School Forensic team has reached out with an offer to join them for this season if any returning forensic students would be interested. Their association is also offering virtual competitions with one planned for February 5, 2021. They will offer a second one but a student would need to qualify by placing in the first meet. They are allowing group acting but with stipulations that students remain 6 feet apart and masked. All performances are taped and then submitted to the association by a specific date.*

*This is short notice so I am only extending this offer to veteran forensic students as you have the ability to independently prepare a piece in a short amount of time. There would not be any after school practices or time within the school day to practice. Students would need to find time at home to practice and perfect their individual or group piece. I would need to let the BDMS forensic coach know if anyone is interested by this Friday, January 15. If you have any questions about what categories are allowed and how they are judged please feel free to ask any of the coaches.*

5. SKDS will not participate in a basketball program this year. We simply do not have the people-power to effectively run a program and meet the requirements of the Archdiocese. We are offering our students a Basketball Open Gym from 3:30-5:00 p.m. twice a week at which they can practice skills, drills, and scrimmage each other. This Open Gym will be run by the basketball coaches.
6. We are in desperate need of an Athletic Director. We need to find an individual or a couple who is willing to take on the many responsibilities and facets of running an SKDS sports program. Hopefully next year, things regarding the COVID restrictions will improve and allow us to provide the

opportunity for our students to join a league and play volleyball, basketball, and track, but without anyone to take on the position of AD, it cannot happen. Neither Patty Schmitt nor can I take on that responsibility. Ideally we should have an Athletics Committee, led by the AD, delegating responsibilities and tasks. After discussion, Ms. Crombie is going to get the list of families participating in athletics and both Jenny Wendorf and Angela Zwald will work to recruit families.

7. Catholic Schools' Week is January 31-February 6. The planning is underway. We will be able to have the dress-up days and the other usual challenges (penny challenge, door decorating challenge) but we will not be having any large group gatherings. The students will be making a thank you gift for the parishioners that will be handed out on the weekend following CSW. The big undertaking is putting together a virtual Festival of the Educational Arts.
8. All the Early Childhood Round-ups will be done virtually. We are making a virtual tour video, which will include 3K, 4K, and 5K. The release date of the EC Round-up video will be February 11, 2021. This will also be a good marketing tool as well.
9. All teachers and staff have received a letter of intent for next year. The letters need to be returned to me by Friday, January 15. This assists with the budget and planning process, which will begin soon.
10. Kim Neumann, a Taher Employee, will be leaving SKDS. Her last day will be Friday, January 15. She is returning to work at her previous place of employment. She said she did enjoy her time here. BDUSD/Taher will be finding us a replacement ASAP.
11. If the district has a snow day, SKDS will offer a list of what students can do from home but google meets will not take place as not all students will have access to technology.
12. There are currently 185 students enrolled. We lost one family but have recently gained a family of three.

## Pastor's Report:

Father Mike shared that the number one goal right now is to get families back to attending mass. The 10:00 mass attendance has improved.

Father is hoping that students will be able to participate in serving during mass again by the Easter season.

## Committee Reports:

Finance Committee - John reported that the month of December was strong with end-of-year giving but the parish is still behind in monetary donations overall. The parish is currently preparing to apply for another PPP loan. \$289,000 was forgiven in the first round and only approximately \$100,000 was spent so far. The endowment fund is currently at 2.5 million in assets.

There was discussion about part of the PPP money/savings going to the Band Guild. Danielle shared that there are also donations coming in for the Band Guild and that the committee is brainstorming the possibility of having a drive-thru spaghetti supper. Refer to the meeting minutes from December if interested in learning more about the current state of the Band Guild finances.

Parish Council Liaison Report - Greg Steil shared the main topic of discussion has been the priest replacement process. The Director of Personnel Resources and the Pastoral Council from both the tri-parishes and SKDS have been discussing the timeline. They went through a process of answering several questions to determine the best fit priest for our parish. The biggest concern continues to be being able to obtain a priest that wants to be in a rural area. The consensus of the council is that we desire a priest who sees the school as a great asset to the parish. An announcement will be made sometime in March - May as to who the new priest will be.

## Unfinished Business:

### Fundraising

Marybeth was thanked for all of her work with the Football Mania fundraiser. Angela is going to send a thank you to Tricia Cargen for her efforts towards the successful virtual Evening of Glitz.

### Reopening School Committee

The committee will be meeting the last week of January to make a decision about virtual Wednesdays moving forward. Safety reminders were sent to all parents prior to the in-person return after break.

### New Business:

#### School Calendar

Updates are being made as the year progresses. Jazz Fest and other events have been removed from the calendar. Currently, Festival of the Arts, Catholic Schools Week, and the 3k/4k/5k Roundup are being planned. All of these events will take place but will be modified and information will be coming out soon.

#### 7th Grade

Continuing to have the 7th grade split into two homerooms will be a top priority for next year. There have been huge benefits this year with the separation for all kids. Behavior problems are nonexistent and many students are able to shine even more as a result of the smaller class sizes.

#### Office Location

Not a top priority at this time

#### Technology Policy

Ms. Crombie is in the process of updating and devising a tech policy. Danielle is going to share the policy that the district has in place.

#### Families & Mass Attendance

Ms. Crombie will be sending mass slips home in the family folder in an effort to try and encourage families to attend. The slips are to be filled out and turned in when families attend.

### Closing Prayer:

Closing prayer was led by Father Mike

### Adjournment:

Greg Steil made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by Jenny Wendorf.