

**Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
1.13.26 6:15 pm**

Attendees:

Father Will Arnold, Principal Jennifer Weiss, Mark Roedl (Chair), Matthew Bahr, Sara Beecher, Carolina Ganske, Lindsey Lehner

Absent:

Adam White (Vice Chair), Melanie Budde, Kirsten Reader

Call to Order:

Mark Roedl called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Will.

Introduction of Guests:

None

Guest Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes:

November minutes were approved via email.

Good News

- Matthew shared that his son was baptized last Sunday along with two other children.
- Sara reported that children were excited to go back to school after Christmas break.
- Eighth graders had their recognition night for basketball this week.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Father included a letter regarding the merger in his newsletter and in the bulletin. The response and feedback has been mainly positive so far.
- Assembling Epiphany blessing materials for school families and faith formation.
- Father is adding a prayer for vocations after Mass.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss (December and January)

Principal's Report December 9, 2025

1. The Christmas program is on Thursday, December 11, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for grades 5K-8. It will feature our Bands and our Vocal Music program. The 3K & 4K will hold their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 10, at 9:30 a.m.
2. Report Cards went home on Thursday, December 5.
3. Each week of Advent, the Primary Level and the Intermediate and Middle School Levels hold prayer services. These are very well done. Here is a link to the other Advent activities happening at SKDS this year. [Advent at SKDS 2025](#)
4. A 4th-grade student withdrew from SKDS on Monday, November 21, 2025. Our current enrollment 3K-8, is 168 students.
5. Kathleen Loeck, one of our Learning Support Coordinators, is no longer employed at SKDS. A search is on to fill this position as soon as possible.

Principal's Report January 13, 2026

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. (Please see the attached letter and certificate in the email.)

2. The Parade of Bands is on Tuesday, January 21, at the BDHS Fieldhouse at 7:00 p.m.
3. The BDUSD is conducting the ACCESS Testing on 16 of our ELL students. The ACCESS is a standards-based assessment that measures students' academic and social English proficiency in the following domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We get results in the Spring, which help teachers make informed decisions on instruction.
4. The Wisconsin Parental School Choice Intent to Participate was completed for the 2026-20267 school year. The Choice application period opens on Monday, February 2. The 2026-2027 School Choice information and application materials are not yet available from DPI, but should be soon. I have updated the letters and information to go out to our SKD Religious Education families and our 4K and 5K families. The School Choice information will also go on our Facebook page, the school website, and the bulletin. This information will also be shared with the other parishes in Western Dodge County. I will work with Rosalia Osorio, who will help with our Spanish-speaking parishioners.
5. Wisconsin Forward Exam Update: The 2026 assessment window at SKDS opens on March 30 and runs through April 24. The Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are performing relative 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 social studies.This is the fifth year SKDS students will be taking the Forward Exam.
6. Amy Darcangelo, the 4K Coordinator for the BDUSD, asked whether SKDS is willing to continue offering an AM 4K option next year. I confirmed that we would. The contract for participation as a site for the BDUSD 4K program with the same session times is usually offered in April.

7. Catholic Schools' Week is January 25-31. The planning is underway. I have received some family volunteers to be ministers at the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 24. We will have a Chili Cook-Off Supper after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on January 24. A message about Catholic Schools Week will be read at the end of Mass on the last weekend. A thank-you gift will be handed out to parishioners after Masses on the weekend following CSW, January 31- February 1. Details of all the happenings for the week will go home to families on January 15 & 22 in Family Folders.
8. All teachers and school staff have received a letter of intent for next year. The letters need to be returned to me by Friday, January 16. This will assist with the budget and planning process, which is scheduled to begin soon.
9. January 19 is a Teacher In-Service day, during which we have the BDFD coming to certify us in CPR and First Aid. In the afternoon, the faculty will review our current crisis response and emergency plan.
10. We will be updating our Math curriculum resources for the 2026-2027 school year. We are continuing with iReady Math for grades 5K-5, and Big Ideas for grades 6-8.
11. The School Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year is almost complete. I will share it at the meeting and ask for your input on a few things.

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on December 2, 2025

- Discussion included a brief update on Parish Vitality initiative. This group is to include all six Western Dodge Parishes. Next meeting is scheduled for January 13th (6:30)
 - Group is looking for more members to join
 - At the next meeting, parishes are being asked to bring event calendars. The goal is to minimize overlap of fundraisers, gatherings, etc. across the parishes.
 - A few ideas of vitality and engagement have been proposed or discussed, including a weekly spiritual activity, but nothing is finalized at this time

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on January 6, 2025

- Much of the discussion focused on engagement among the six parishes
- A presentation was made regarding a display of an enhanced illustration and description of the Passion of Jesus. It adds steps beyond the 14 Stations and looks to include more context and scientific information about what Jesus went through. This could involve the school in some form or fashion
- Fr. Will discussed a desire to include a prayer for vocations at the end of Mass (including school Mass) with the assistance of prayer cards. He has been in contact with another diocese (Superior?) to help with acquiring the cards.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on November 19, 2025

- Discussion specific to the school was limited
- A few maintenance issues were discussed
 - Potential change in firm for elevator maintenance
 - Repair of school kitchen fan
- Additional cameras installed around the Church

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on December 17, 2025

- The school windows project was approved by the Finance Council and proposal from Hometown Glass signed by Fr. Will. Total cost is ~\$225,000. Funding for this comes from:
 - Love One Another funds (\$100,000)
 - A bequest that is coming to the school (\$100,000)
 - Evening of Glitz (\$25,000)
 - Other - if necessary
- The project is estimated to take six weeks from start to finish. As of the time this edition went to press, the start date has not been established
- Additional Church cameras have been installed to increase security for school and all masses

Unfinished Business

- Glitz Updates
 - \$2,970 in cash donations (we received roughly \$9k last year)
 - \$1,700 in advertisements (we received \$3,200 last year)
 - Silent and live auction items are still coming in; we have a nice assortment of items so far.

- 49 registrants (we know many people who have not registered yet).
 - End-of-night James St. window collection: windows cost roughly \$3,100 each. The project is being covered by other sources, leaving Glitz with a \$25k goal. We will add the special donation item to the program so attendees can prepare to donate (also required for financial purposes). The fundraising initiative for the windows can certainly extend beyond the Glitz event. *Glitz committee will also send an email to school families in advance of the event to encourage donations.
- Pancake Breakfast updates
 - March 29 date set. More discussion to be had regarding who will lead this event.
 - There is a need for more volunteers across the board for our school. We need to get the message out as to what our volunteer needs are. Initial idea - send an electronic sign up (Sign Up Genius) at the end of the school year for the following year. Prepare a calendar and a list of needs well in advance. Follow up in the summer regarding volunteer needs and at Open House. Establish leads of events or volunteer areas and provide them with the names of the volunteers to reach out to.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Carolina made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Lindsey. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.