

**Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
2.10.26 6:15 pm**

Attendees:

Father Will Arnold, Principal Jennifer Weiss, Mark Roedl (Chair) (Virtual), Adam White (Vice Chair), Melanie Budde, Sara Beecher, Lindsey Lehner, Carolina Ganske (Virtual)

Absent:

Kirsten Reader, Matthew Bahr

Call to Order:

Adam White called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Will.

Introduction of Guests:

Jennifer Sekel

Guest Comments:

Jennifer provided a recap of Glitz. Window outreach will continue to reach a final goal of \$40k.

Approval of Minutes:

January minutes were approved via email.

Good News

- Melanie shared that she is excited that the basketball season is almost over, but it has been a great season. Forensics is also going very well.
- Catholic Schools week was a lot of fun and went well.

- Knights of Columbus presented awards for the KC Knowledge Test in math and spelling. The kids get very excited about this opportunity and challenge.
- Parade of Bands was a great event.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- North Star newsletter has been well received and informative.
- It was suggested that Peter Laning present information on Faith Formation to the 8th grade students and parents.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss (February)

Principal's Report
February 10, 2026

1. On January 19, the BDFD came to certify faculty and staff in CPR and First Aid. In the afternoon, the faculty reviewed our current crisis response and emergency plan, both for the school and the church.
2. The Parade of Bands was on Tuesday, January 20, at the BDHS Fieldhouse at 7:00 p.m. Our students did a wonderful job! Next year, we will consider dressing in uniform, as all other schools wear something similar.
3. Catholic Schools' Week went really well. It was such a fun week. Check out the FB posts for every day during the week, courtesy of Ms. Crombie. At last week's faculty meeting, we reviewed the week and made suggestions for next year's changes. The lack of family presence and involvement in the opening Mass and Chili Supper is always a challenge, and I confess it is a little disappointing. It is also very difficult to get volunteers for those Masses as well. This year we provided donuts and coffee after the 8:00, 10:00, 12:00 Masses on Sunday of the last weekend of CSW as a thank you to parishioners and families. Students also handed out prayer cards that were made earlier that week. That turn out was great!
4. All teachers and school staff have returned their letters of intent for next year. Based on the response, there will be only a few vacant positions going into next year.

5. Last week, our 8th graders visited the BDHS. BDHS Counselors will be visiting the 8th Graders to register for their 9th Grade courses on February 17. Earlier in the year, St. Jude from Watertown, CWC, and St. Lawrence also visited our 8th-grade students to present their options for high school opportunities. We have also shared information from Chesterton Academy in Sun Prairie, with our 7th & 8th grade families.
6. The Choice application period opened on Monday, February 2. To date, 25 students have applied for the Choice program. 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 is 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.
7. On February 6, the teachers completed the second of two Sustaining the Mission workshops for the year. It was great! The format, and especially the content, were wonderful. We completed six segments on Facilitating Conversion in a Catholic School. I attached a document to the email I sent.
8. The 3K & 5K Round-ups will be held next Monday, February 16. Information has been sent to current families and those in the parish register. Information has been in the bulletin and on FB.
9. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18. We are working on plans for Lent, including a clothing drive for St. Vincent de Paul, being planned by Peter Luning, and we will also participate in the Crucified display in the Narthex of the church during Holy Week. We will also prepare the Living Stations (grade 3) and the Shadow Way of the Cross (Grade 5). Each classroom teacher will also submit to me a Lenten plan of activities for their students.
10. The School Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year is complete and ready for submission to the Archdiocesan Schools Office for

approval. There were a few changes made since I shared it last month. I will share the changes at the meeting.

11. In January, our 5th through 8th-grade students took the KC Knowledge Test in the areas of Math and Spelling. This is a challenging test with a 30-minute time limit. Today, Tuesday, February 10, two members of the Knights of Columbus presented awards to our 5th through 8th graders who took 1st and 2nd place in the Math and Spelling Knowledge Contest. The first-place winners are eligible to move on to the next level of competition in April.
12. I met last week with Sarah Bindl and Dan Doyle, who are hoping to start a *Raise Your Voice Club* at SKDS. This is a student-led club that:
Promotes mental health awareness and reduces stigma in schools.
Creates a safe space for students to talk about emotional wellness.
Encourages peer support and kindness.
Organizes events, campaigns, and discussions about Healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety.
13. Please ask me about SKDS as a “hidden gem.” The comment came from a tutor who comes in three days a week. How do we make others aware that there is a catholic school in Beaver Dam? How do we promote this school? A part-time marketing and communications position was suggested-can we add this to the budget? Need to define the scope of the position.
14. Further discussion involving busing to area Catholic High Schools took place. How do we make it easier for children to attend these high schools? Long Range Planning will take up this topic for discussion.

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on February 3, 2026

- Much of the discussion was surrounding the merger process taking the Western Dodge parishes from six to three, with a target of July 2027

- While not directly impacting SKD, feedback from other parishes has been largely understanding
- A brief discussion on the Parish Vitality meeting. The January meeting looked at activities to ensure there is minimal (if any) overlap of activities across the parishes.
- Next Vitality meeting is February 24th at 6:15 (in the narthex). Some voices from the school parents would be good. I was at the last one and intend to be at the next one.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on January 20, 2026

- Budget seasons has begun
- A 5% tuition increase was approved for 2026-27
- School window project proxy has been approved by the Archdiocese. This allows us to go forward with the project.
- Finance Council is looking to set aside funds from general school donations specifically for curriculum purchases. They tend to be larger in dollar amount, but are also able to be telegraphed at least one full year in advance.
- The commission suggested a draw-down/incidental account. Can families deposit a one time fee for field trips, roller skates, other expenses?

Unfinished Business

- Glitz Results

Glitz Final 25/26 Results	
Attendees	125
Live Auction	\$30,175.00
Silent Auction	\$3,178.00
Old Fashioneds	\$146.00
50/50 Raffle	\$690.00
Principal's Office	\$330.00
Pull Tabs	\$1,140.00
Human Slot Machine	\$195.50
Advertising	\$2,600.00
Pre-Event Donations	\$4,610.00
Onsite Donations	\$600.00
Floral Donations	\$480.00

Registration funds	\$4,695.00
Auctioneer/Emcee Tips	-\$600.00
BDCC Expenses	-\$4,690.00
Desserts Cost	-\$100.00
General Fund Income	\$43,449.50
Additionally:	
Window Outreach	
Donations	\$1,100
Special Auction (Windows)	\$32,760.00

- Overall, attendance, pre-donations and advertising was down, but the event was very successful. The student helpers were amazing this year and helped whenever or wherever we needed them. They constantly asked “what can I do next?”. They were the shining stars of the evening. The open buffet flowed great, food was delicious and the event was wrapped up by 8:30/9:00. School mom Lindsay Sherron provided the deserts this year, they were very well done. The special donation was a huge success. We will continue to evaluate and refine this event. Please look for a survey in the next few weeks so we can gather any and all feedback.
- Pancake Breakfast updates
 - Planning is underway and outreach has started. A group of five people are on the committee. The next planning meeting will be within the next couple of weeks and tickets will be on sale soon.
- Scrip Update from Jen Nampel: We are in need of parent volunteers to sell Scrip after Mass. We are especially in need of volunteers after Saturday 4:30 Masses. Our volunteers are starting to retire from selling. We have had it in the newsletter but have not received any responses.
- Carolina invited everyone to attend the Wayland Cultural Convention on February 28.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Melanie.
Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.