

**Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School  
School Advisory Commission Minutes  
3.10.26 6:15 pm**

**Attendees:**

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

**Absent:**

Kirsten Reader, Carolina Ganske

**Call to Order:**

Adam White called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:**

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Will.

**Introduction of Guests:**

None

**Guest Comments:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

February minutes were approved via email and in-person discussion.

**Good News**

- Adam shared that he is enjoying seeing the forensics events and how talented the children at SKDS are.
- Lent event preparations are under way. Jennifer will help with the Living Stations. Stations of the Cross (Crucified Christ) are set up in the parish center and the SKDS students will be able to walk through the exhibit.

- Jennifer shared that FACTS enrollment is going smooth. Choice enrollment is also steady and going well.
- Jennifer also shared that communication for truancy and/or attendance via FACTS has been a welcome change for both administration and parents.

### Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Peter Laning will be reaching out to the 8th grade students to talk about faith formation for the upcoming years.

### Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss

#### **Principal's Report**

**March 10, 2026**

- On Thursday, February 16, we held our Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up. We had fifteen families attend.
- The Wisconsin Parental School Choice application period is open and at this time, we have 44 students who have applied for the Choice program. Six students would be new to SKDS.

#### **WPCP Application Windows for 2026-2027**

**The Department of Public Instruction has designated the following application dates:**

- February 2 – 20, 2026
  - March 1 – 20, 2026
  - April 1 – 20, 2026
  - May 1 – 20, 2026
  - June 1 – 20, 2026
  - July 1 – 20, 2026
  - August 1 – 20, 2026
  - September 1 – 14, 2026
- On Monday, February 18, at 1:30 p.m., St. Katharine Drexel School, in partnership with the Beaver Dam Police Department, conducted a school-wide Lockdown Drill. We practice safety drills throughout the year to help our staff and students know what to do in an emergency. We are

pleased with the outcome of the drill and feel reassured that our staff can effectively implement our safety plans.

- On Thursday, March 5, we had the Festival of Music at SKDS. About 55 students in grades 5-8 participated in this event. Todd Halverson and Amy Thronsen were judges.
- The 2026-2027 school calendar will go home on Thursday, March 12.
- Wisconsin Forward Exam Update: St. Katharine Drexel students in grades 3-8 will participate in the Forward Exam. SKDS students will take the exam during the window of March 30- April 24. 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.
- Lent began on Wednesday, February 18. Here is the link to the [Lenten activities for each grade level.](#)

**Action Item:**

- We need to review the school's mission statement: St. Katharine Drexel School lovingly educates the whole child through the lens of our Roman Catholic faith to bring oneself and others closer to God.
- SAC reviewed the mission statement and will come with suggestions for any changes and confirm the statement during the April meeting.

**Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)**

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

- Discussion was primarily focused on updates of the merging process and an update of the latest Parish Vitality Meeting.
- Nothing in particular with the school.

## Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on February 17, 2026

- Budget season has begun. Much of the discussion was on budgeting and bookkeeping.
- Discussion took place related to the compensation of school employees, faculty, para-professionals and others. Nothing decided as the discussion was preliminary.

### Unfinished Business

- Pancake Breakfast updates  
Volunteer recruitment is underway, and a sign-up link has been shared with school families. So far, we have 21 confirmed volunteers. We are also successfully securing items for the silent auction, \$1 auction, and raffles, and confirming key roles for the day of the event, including kitchen help, serving, and cleanup. Promotion of the breakfast will continue in the coming weeks through parish and school communications.

Cash donations received currently are at \$5,956.00 (last year's total was \$9,059.00) and continue to flow in.

Tickets have gone home with families and are being sold at the school office, parish center, and the offices at Annunciation and the Tri-Parishes as well. I don't have an exact number of tickets sold thus far, but I am happy to update the group once I do.

At this point, the main focus is continuing to build our volunteer list and collect auction items and donations. If SAC members have ideas for potential donors or would like to help promote the event, that support would be greatly appreciated. I am delighted that Marshall Angst and possibly Fr. Nick will be joining me on "Hometown Today" this Friday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m. to promote the event as well.

Our planning committee meets again this Thursday, March 12, if any of you would like to join us in the Parish Center at 5:30 p.m

SAC suggested better event signage along with a possible sign-up for volunteers in the narthex of church.

- Initial discussions for SAC terms and needs for next year

- By-laws suggest 8 or 9 members. 8 members would be sufficient, but if there is interest, 9 members would be great.
- SAC members were asked to start recruiting new members. Many names were provided as possible candidates.
- Recruitment in school and parish newsletters will begin.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

### **Adjournment:**

Melanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Matthew.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.