

**Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
8.12.25
6:15 pm**

Attendees:

Father Will Arnold, Principal Jennifer Weiss, Adam White (Vice Chair), Sara Beecher, Melanie Budde, Kirsten Reader, Carolina Ganske, Matthew Bahr, Lindsey Lehner

Virtual:

Mark Roedl (Chair)

Absent:

None

Call to Order:

Adam White called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Father Will.

New SAC Member Introductions:

Introduction of Guests:

None

Guest Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes:

June minutes were approved via email.

Good News

- Adam is excited for more SKDS students playing football.
- Kirsten appreciates attending various community events and seeing the SKDS student/family connections.
- Melanie Budde is excited to be involved with a new BD Gives 100 initiative - nonprofits can apply for funds.
- Ms. Weiss acknowledged the success of the tutoring program implemented last school year, enforces relationships.
- Ms. Weiss is excited for all of the new SKDS hires.
- Sara found FACTS easy to use and appreciated the tuition payment reminders.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Father Will provided us a summary of his time in Rhode Island.
- John Pryme and Kristin Adsit resigned over the summer.
- Peter Loning is the new Youth Minister.
- Faith Formation changes - moving Third Grade through Confirmation from Tri-Parishes to the St. Katharine Drexel program.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss

1. All open teaching positions for the 2025-2026 school year have been filled.

We welcome...

Fifth Grade Teacher, Ms. Emeline Kessenich

Spanish Teacher, Mrs. Estela Calvo-Gil

4K Teacher, Mrs. Vanessa Buchda

IT Support Coordinator, Mrs. Jennelle Buford

Learning Support Coordinator Gr. 4-8, Ms. Kathleen Loeck

Athletic Director, Mrs. Penny Brisky

Teaching Assignments:

Ms. Crombie: Grade 8 Religion, ELA, and Science; Grade 7 Science; Grade 6 ELA

Mrs. Scott: Grade 7 Religion, Grades 6-8 Social Studies,

Mrs. Pokey: Grade 6 Religion, Math, and Science; Grade 7 Math, Grade 8 Math

Mrs. Calvo-Gil: Grades 1-8 Spanish, assists with our ELL students, and translations

Ms. Kessenich: Grades 4 & 5 Math and Science, Grade 5 Social Studies (Ms. Margaret Sadoski will teach Religion.)

Mrs. Sadoski: Grade 4 Religion, Grades 4 & 5 ELA, Grade 4 Social Studies
Teachers of Grades 3K-3: teach all core subjects to their students.

Learning Support Teachers: Mrs. Rechek and **Ms. Loeck** support the literacy needs of our students in grades 5K-8.

Student Support Teacher: Mr. Crombie supports the social/emotional needs of our students in grades 5K-8.

2. Current enrollment numbers for the 2025-2026 school year: **169**

•	Preschool	9
•	4K	14
•	5K	17
•	1st	14
•	2nd	10
•	3rd	21
•	4th	13
•	5th	18
•	6th	17
•	7th	14
•	8th	22

*We have 54 students who have accepted their Choice voucher for the 2025-2026 School year.

3. I attended the Principals' Opening Day in Milwaukee on August 6, which is put on by the AOM Schools Office. There were 115 school principals from the Arch in attendance. I attached the slide presentation for the day to the email. Feel free to review the information we covered, especially the marketing information on slides 48-56. I will share some additional information regarding this at our meeting.
4. Maintenance is almost done, and the building is almost ready for the start of school. Heide Antoni, who joined our maintenance team this summer, has painted the new classroom doors and the lockers on the first floor. Things look great!
5. Our Forward Exam data review session will be on Friday, August 15. SKDS Teachers of grades 3K-8 and Learning Resource teachers will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Catacombs to review the Forward Exam results, set up our testing windows for Math and ELA for the year, and schedule the students working with our Learning Support teachers. Teachers in 3K-2 will be using new screening assessments this year and will prepare for their

implementation at the August 15 meeting as well. Here is the [2025 Forward Exam Data for Grades 3-8](#) again for your review.

6. On Monday, August 18, we will start our in-service week by attending Mass at 8:20 a.m. and having breakfast with the school and parish staff in the Narthex. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be filled with scheduled meetings.
7. This year's open house will begin with a parent meeting. We will all gather in the Church before having families visit the classrooms. This meeting is expected to last approximately 30 minutes. Families will then visit the classrooms, drop off school supplies, meet the teachers, and stop by Cougar's Closet, which will be set up in the gym, along with Home & School, and SCRIP. The open house runs from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Thursday, August 21.
8. We will have updated signs at all three school entrances (inside the building) displaying a welcome message, our theme, and our mission statement.
9. This summer, Home & School has purchased new tables for the 5K classroom and new desks and chairs for grade 2. They have purchased new playground equipment: basketballs, kickballs, soccer balls, jump ropes, and sidewalk chalk. The current members are seeking additional parents to become involved. Home & School will have a table set up in the gym at our Open House on August 21, providing treats and sharing more information about how to get involved and about upcoming events planned for this year. Home & School is also offering additional options to teachers to use the \$100 gift for classroom items this year. Teachers can be reimbursed for \$100 worth of purchases or receive a \$100 Walmart or Amazon gift card. (Subject to tax.)
10. Jennelle Buford, our IT Coordinator, started on June 23, and has done an excellent job at both the school and parish in preparation for the new school year. With having an on-site IT person, SKD is ending its services with InterQuest, and will be using Wire Technologies beginning September 2.

11. The move from PowerSchool to FACTS has been an arduous task for the office staff this summer. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Patty Schmitt and Judy Wilson for getting us ready for the school year to begin. I am sure there are additional challenges ahead, which come with any change of this magnitude, but I am confident that all stakeholders will benefit from this change.

Additional Notes:

We have our audit by Vesta for school choice on August 11 & 12.

3K-8th Grade Student count to date: 179 students

The class schedules are completed, and everything looks good. However, the schedule is not finalized until we have completed a full week of school.

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

- Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County meet on August 5, 2025. No specific discussion on SKDS occurred. Focus was on faith formation and collaboration.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

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

- School discussion focused on completion of hiring for 2025-26 for academics along with athletics program management.
- Much of the discussion was on various buildings and grounds projects, including those at the school: parapet repair, gym floor, painting new doors, steam traps.
- Confirmed technology plan of action regarding staffing and contracting.

Finance Council **did not** meet in July

Unfinished Business

- 2025-26 SAC Executive Voting (postponed to September Meeting).

- Class Parent Discussion - continue initiative, involve teachers in choosing class parents, possibly omit middle school classes from the class parent initiative.
- SAC sub-committee updates
 - Presentation on sub-committee reorganization in September.
- Open House - August 21st
 - Will start with meeting in the church. In the gym - Home and School, Scrip and Cougar's closet available for more information.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Melanie Budde made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Carolina Ganske.