

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
9.8.25
6:15 pm

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Matthew Bahr, Carolina Ganske

Call to Order:

Mark Roedl called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Jennifer Weiss.

Introduction of Guests:

Ben Larson and Susan Pokey

Guest Comments:

Ben Larson gave an update on school safety.

Approval of Minutes:

August minutes were approved via email.

Good News

- Jennifer shared it has been a good start to the year.
- Melanie shared her daughter is happy with the new Spanish teacher and that she has Mrs. Pokey for study hall.
- Adam appreciates Penny Brisky and her efforts as Athletic Director. The volleyball teams are doing great!
- Lindsey shared her kids are enjoying the year and she is recruiting parent volunteers.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Peter Laning has started as Director Youth & Young Adult Ministries and is doing well.
- The Parish is currently interviewing for a Director of Children's Faith Formation.
- Father Will started a newsletter. He is hoping to connect with other Parishes with a consistent message and build a database of contacts.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss

Principal's Report September 8, 2025

1. The start of this year has gone very well. Without question, the tragedy that occurred on August 27 in MN has had an impact on us. We have implemented new protocols for our school Masses. I will be attending the virtual DHS Fall Religious Observances Safety and Security Briefing tomorrow. Here is the [meeting agenda](#).
2. We have Liturgy Practice again this year, held every Tuesday morning. This provides an excellent opportunity for the school (5K-8) to come together to review reverence in church, acknowledge students for various reasons, and sing 'Happy Birthday' to anyone who celebrated a birthday within the last week. We had our first school Mass with our new safety protocols in place. The class, lunch, and recess schedules are working well. The weather has been great and keeps our classrooms pretty comfortable. Our students seem happy to be back!
3. This year's open house went well. I again received positive feedback about holding the family meeting in the church. There were a lot of families that took items from Cougar's Closet.
4. Current enrollment numbers for the 2025-2026 school year: **172**
 - Preschool 9
 - 4K 17
 - 5K 17
 - 1st 14

- 2nd 10
- 3rd 21
- 4th 13
- 5th 18
- 6th 17
- 7th 14
- 8th 22

5. We continue to set up the FACTS platform. It is already proving to be beneficial, as we are able to run numerous reports for the information that we need. We are working on entering the standards for each grade level and creating our report card.
6. On Thursday, August 28, Sarah Bindl, Officer Strachota, Officer Karel, and Officer Edwards presented on internet and social media safety to our students in grades 6-8. The presentation was very well received by our students and laid good groundwork for establishing healthy boundaries and guidelines moving forward. I have asked Officer Edwards to present this information to our fifth graders this year, which he will do on Friday, September 12.
7. Reports due: The Third Friday Count will be done on September 18, 19, & 22. The Annual Report is due on September 30, 2025, and the Required PI-1207 Private School Data Collection Application opens on September 22, 2025, and is due on October 15, 2025.
8. Our Vesta school choice audit was on August 11 and 12. Everything went well, and we are currently in compliance with all requirements! Our next School Choice Audit, conducted by Vesta, is scheduled for October.
9. All teachers met in August to review the assessment data from last year and the Forward Exam results. We also developed a process for collecting, organizing, and utilizing assessment data for Math and ELA to inform decisions about instructional methods, purchasing curriculum resources, and identifying students who require support from our Learning Support Teachers, as well as identifying students who could participate in accelerated programs. This year, we are having the students set goals based on their BOY assessment results. This initiative will remain one of our

primary focuses this year. We use a spreadsheet to help teachers document our assessment data in one place.

10. On Tuesday, September 16, I will attend the Principal's Fall Meeting in Slinger.
11. Theme Day planning is underway. Theme Day is Friday, September 26.
12. On Tuesday, October 14, Jennelle and I will attend the Schools Marketing Workshop at the MMCPC.

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

- Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County will next meet on September 23 , 2025.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on August 19, 2025.

- Discussion was held regarding the use of Google versus Microsoft Office due to the need to upgrade our Office versions. SKDS staff prefer to continue using Google products for development and collaboration.
- The James Street Windows project was discussed. This was included as one of the artifacts under the *Love One Another* campaign as something LOA funds would partially pay for. It has also been something discussed for years to aid in climate control and safety (the windows cannot be opened by one person who doesn't go by the alias of Clark Kent).

The original estimate was \$200,000 (from a few years ago). We are now told to budget for \$240,000. Nothing was formally voted on, but what was discussed was a three-pronged method of paying for the project: (1) LOA funds, (2) using part of the money from an upcoming estate donation and (3) end-of-night auction for this winter's Evening of Glitz.

- Finally, the 2025-26 budget was included in the bulletin the weekend of August 30/31. It showed that we are in a deficit budget for this year. It also showed that we were in a deficit budget last year, but ended with a

surplus. The reasons for this include our inability to budget for donations by way of estates, wills, etc. that haven't happened yet. In addition, Love One Another funds cannot be added to our budget.

There is no guarantee that what transpired last year (budgeted deficit, actual surplus) will be the case this year as there are likely expenses that will arise that we didn't plan for, in addition to donation uncertainty. So, we cannot take our foot off the gas in terms of fundraising and stewardship. This message has been shared not just with the school, but also with the total Parish as giving through envelopes and offertory has ticked up slightly year-over-year, but compared to inflation has not risen enough.

Unfinished Business

- 2025-26 SAC Executive Voting.
 - Melanie made a motion and Lindsey seconded to nominate Sara as Secretary. All approved.
 - The Commission agreed to proceed with Mark as Chair and Adam as Vice Chair for the current term.
- SAC sub-committee updates
 - There will be an update from the Long Range Planning committee in October. Special Guest - Angela Zwald.
 - Presentation on other committees also to be held in October.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Melanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Adam.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

