

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
7.7.26 6:15 pm

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Mark Roedl (Chair), Kirsten Reader, Peter Frey

Call to Order:

Adam White called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Will.

Introduction of Guests:

None

Guest Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes:

April minutes were approved by motion and vote. Melanie made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Lindsey.

Good News

- Sara and Adam commented on how great the band performed at the Memorial Day ceremony and Fourth of July parade.
- Ms. Weiss is excited and hopeful about the candidates for the open positions. She also commented about the maintenance and projects happening in the school this summer. New windows, new AC in the

computer room, main office, and Jenny's office. Maintenance and cleaning are coming along well.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Totus Tuus summer program held at St. Katharine Drexel in early June. 53 kids attended. The program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. All went very well and the kids enjoyed the week. The program is booked again for June 2027.
- Rita Nowak has been instrumental in our Faith Formation program. She is a valued member of our parish community.
- Clark and Madeline Crombie will be co-directors for Faith Formation for our younger students.
- Brad Berghouse is the new Director of Operations. He is a consultant and also works for numerous other parishes. His duties and responsibilities are being assessed.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss

Principal's Report May 2026

- 2026-2027 Faculty/Staff to Date (Signed Contracts/Letters of Employment Returned)
 - 3K - Tricia Cargen / Maria Ramirez as her aide
 - 4K - Vanessa Buchda / **Beth Luedtke**
 - 5K - Molly Warmka Grade 1 - Megan Meyer
 - Grade 2 - Madeline Crombie
 - Grade 3 - Sarah Puleo Grade 4 - Patti Sadoski
 - Grade 5 - Emeline Kessenich
 - Grade 6 - Mrs. Pokey
 - Grade 7 - **This position has been offered.**
 - Grade 8 - Miss Crombie
 - Literacy Support for Primary - Mrs. Rechek
 - Literacy Support for Elementary - **2nd Interview on 7/8/26**
 - Student Support - Mr. Crombie
 - Art 5K-8 - Mrs. Zander
 - Phy. Ed. 4 K-8 - Mrs. Bloohm

- Athletic Director -Penny Brisky
 - Music 4K-8 - Gail Hoffman
 - Spanish - Estela Calvo-Gil
 - Classroom Aides Gr. 5K-4: Erin Bates, Bailey Morell, Rita Nowak, Penny Brisky, Margaret Sadoski
 - BSC, EAD, ASC: Claudia Ramirez
 - Director of Food Services - Ms. Hayley Kong was hired and will begin in July.
- On Thursday, May 14, Home and School held the Fun Run. It was a successful run. We had a gorgeous day, so students were able to run outside. We raised an amazing \$15,078! Of that total, \$4,550 came from cash sponsors, while students contributed the remaining \$10,528.

Home & School Update

- Over the past year, Home & School has been proud to support our students, staff, and school community in many ways. We provided nearly \$1,500 worth of new gym and recess equipment. All teachers received a \$100 gift to help offset their school-year expenses.
 - We also coordinated meals for staff during parent-teacher conferences and during an in-service day at the start of the school year. Our community events included a swim night at the YMCA, participation in the holiday parade, a festive cookie decorating event, and a family movie night. We supported Muffins with Mom for our 3K and 4K families and organized a fun-filled week of events for Teacher Appreciation Week. We also assist with the 8th Grade Graduation reception.
- On Thursday, May 7, we had our Spring Vocal Concert featuring 5K-4th-grade students and the Chorus. It was a great concert. Our kids did a great job, and you could tell they enjoyed themselves.
 - The Wisconsin Parental School Choice application period continues through September 14. We have 52 students who have applied and been verified for the Choice program for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Band in 5th Grade is required. There are no fees for 5th-grade band students. Students in grades 6-8 have the option to take Chorus, Band, or both.
- We had ten families apply for Tuition Assistance for next year.
- Current enrollment numbers for the 26-27 school year are:
 - 3K - 13
 - 4K - 15
 - 5K - 12
 - Gr. 1 - 16
 - Gr. 2 - 16
 - Gr. 3 - 9
 - Gr. 4 - 20
 - Gr. 5 - 13
 - Gr. 6 - 18
 - Gr. 7 - 17
 - Gr. 8 - 14

Principal's Report June 2026

1. Total enrollment at the end of 2025-2026 for 3K-8th grade was 168 students; in 2024-2025, we had 178 students; in 2023-2024, we had 182 students in 3K-8.
2. The 4K 2026-2027 Program Contract with the BDUSD was signed for next year. We currently have 15 students enrolled at the SKDS site.
3. End-of-year in-service days, June 1-5, consisted of full-faculty meetings, level meetings, room cleaning and packing, and all teachers meeting with me to check out, which included completing and reviewing the Final Clearance Checklist for Faculty.
4. Summer Projects include:
 - a. 70 new windows to be installed in the 1920 section (James St. & Parking Lot Side) of the building, beginning around June 16.
 - b. The tile floors in rooms 213 (5K) and 215 (1st grade) will be replaced sometime in July.

- c. Two mini-split air conditioners will be installed for the IT Room and the office.
5. The Safe Environment forms have been completed by the teachers and returned to me for uploading to the Catholic Mutual Group portal to comply with the Archdiocesan requirements. This year, all teachers utilized the Safe Environment Curriculum provided by the Arch, The Circle of Grace.
6. The Tuition Assistance Committee met in May. Ten families applied for assistance. The special contracts for those families have all been returned. Approximately \$29,000 in TA grants was awarded.
7. The Wisconsin Parental School Choice application period continues through September 14. We have 57 students who have applied and been verified for the Choice program for the 2026-2027 school year.
8. The 8th Grade Awards Ceremony was held on May 26, 2026. See the following recipients:

The President's Award for Academic Excellence rewards academic excellence in the classroom and outstanding achievement.

Recipients are:

- Citlalli Abalos
- Sofia Adikari
- Gordon Bates
- Cameron Frey
- Caleb Ganske
- Madalynn Hupf
- Charolette Rake
- Emanuel Solis Chavez
- Guadalupe Villa

The American Citizenship Award rewards school/community service, positive attitude, civic responsibility, strength of character, and the courage to do what is right.

Recipients are:

Dalton Schessow
Samuel Sherron

The Faculty Merit Award honors perseverance in academic studies, consistent cheerful and cooperative class/school participation, and respect for others.

Recipients are:

Cameron Frey
Charolette Rake

The Jerry Dorn/Randy Arndorfer Christian Spirit Award honors the student who exemplifies respect, courtesy, concern for others, and lives the words of Christ, "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Recipient is: Guadalupe Villa

9. During the awards ceremony, Kim Lopas gave out the band awards.
Recipients are:

DRUM MAJORS AND FLAG CORPS CAPTAINS:

Recognition for leadership and extra responsibility
Being in the band is a big responsibility- being a band leader takes commitment, atience, dedication, and a willingness to take on numerous extra responsibilities.

Drum Major: Easton Stommel
Flag Corps Captain: Fiona Bowser

The Loyal Bandsman Award rewards commitment and dedication to music.

Recipients are:

Grade 5: Easley S. and Henry O.
Grade 6: Molly M. and Teagan B.
Grade 7: Jonah N.

The Most Improved Musicianship Award rewards musical progress, determination, persistence, and patience.

Recipients are:

Grade 5: Laia H.
Grade 6: Oliver O. and Adie E.

Grade 8: Citlalli A.

The Most Valuable Bandsman Award honors outstanding musicianship and performance skills.

Recipients are:

Grade 5: Aubrianna M. & Mayrin R.

Grade 6: Mia D.

Grade 7: Denali G.

Grade 8: Gordy B.

The Director's Award recognizes an outstanding band graduate who has had commitment and dedication to Band for four years. The recipient presents a consistent display of musicianship.

Recipient is :

Fiona B.

10. The 8th-graders graduated on May 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the church with a reception in the gym following Mass. We had around 175+ people at the graduation Mass and reception. It was a beautiful celebration of a beautiful group of young people!
11. May 29, Field Day, was our last day of school. We started our day with Mass and ended our ½ day in the gym for an all-school prayer service, and a video of the year's highlights. The video was shared with families in the newsletter. We had an assembly in the gym following Mass to say thank you and good-bye to Mrs. Peggy Scott and Mrs. Tina Steele.
12. Our theme for the 2026-2027 school year is: We love, because He first loved us. Nosotros amamos porque Él nos amó primero. 1John 4:19
13. Policy Updates for 2026-2027 School Year: [Archdiocese of Milwaukee](#)
[Parish and School Policy Manual](#)
 - a. 3410: Financial Reporting. Minor update
 - b. 4441: Electronic Resources and Communication. Substantial revision. Divided into three separate policies:
 - i. 4441: Electronic Resources and Communication
 - ii. 4441.1: Social Media

- iii. 4441.2: Communications with Students (Electronic Communication)
 - c. 5123: Student Promotion and Retention. Updated to match new policy #7201
 - d. 5123.1: Student Acceleration. Minor update
 - e. 7101: Emergency Operations Plan. Previously #5317. Substantial update
 - f. 7102: Audiovisual Recording on School Buses. New policy in response to recent legislation.
 - g. 7103: Appropriate Communication with Students. New policy in response to recent legislation.
 - h. 7104: Parental Notification of Alleged Sexual Misconduct. New policy in response to recent legislation.
 - i. 7201: Early Literacy Instruction and Assessment. New policy in response to recent legislation.
 - j. **Smart Watches/Devices:** Smart watches or devices will not be permitted to be worn during the school day. If brought to school, they must remain powered off and in the student's backpack.
 - k. Clarification on the missing work due to absence policy (regardless if parents requested work)
 - l. Clarification on the Pre-arranged Absence Request policy and updating the form (Number of days prior to absence/length of absence)
 - m. **Adding/Dropping Music class** (Band or Chorus) at the end of the trimester.
14. I previously spoke with Fr. Will about the SAC meeting only six times per year. The proposed months to meet:
- Tuesday, July 7, 2026
 - Tuesday, September 8, 2026
 - Tuesday, November 10, 2026
 - Tuesday, January 12, 2027
 - Tuesday, March 9, 2027
 - Tuesday, May 11, 2027

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on Tuesday, May 5th

- Discussion of timeline updates on the merger/collaboration was provided.
- A point of discussion was on goals for the Pastoral Council in the upcoming year. Ideas focused on increasing outreach to guests to the parishes (all six), more opportunities for mid-week engagement, and increasing catechesis opportunities.
- The Pastoral Council did not meet in April or July.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on May 19, 2026:

- Discussions on two projects for the school. Both of which were approved at the meeting or afterwards via email
 - Floor replacement in the 5K room and room 215
 - AC mini-split in the main office, library, Jenny's office
- Budget was signed and submitted to the Archdiocese
 - As is always the case, we responded to a few questions afterwards and re-submitted

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on June 16, 2026:

- Much of the discussion centered around parish-wide administrative matters, including the Director of Operations and Health Insurance.
- Update was provided that the school window project would begin later in June (which it has).
- Air conditioning the technology room was approved and work on that is to commence soon, if not already done.

*SAC discussed AC for the school. Could we look into window units now that new windows are in the building? Possibly just for the upper level? We would also like Finance to start thinking about a special auction item for Glitz.

Unfinished Business

- Discussion of SAC 2026-27 term and following years
 - Marshall Angst was voted in and approved to be a SAC member by the group.
 - Sara Beecher was voted in and approved to be the SAC Secretary.
 - Adam White was voted in and approved to be the SAC Chair.
 - Melanie Budde and Carolina Ganske have committed to one more year of participation on SAC.
 - Melanie and Carolina were voted in and approved to be the Co-SAC Vice-Chairs.
- Fundraising event leads and volunteer recruitment
 - Football Mania - Marybeth Schessow
 - Catholic Schools Walk/Soles Walk - TBD
 - Glitz - Vicki Hafenstein/Sara Beecher
 - Pancake Breakfast - TBD
 - This discussion item will be a recurring item on all SAC agendas for this coming school year.
- Open House will be on Thursday August 20th
 - Same format as last year. Meeting in Church and then visits to the gym and classrooms.
 - Volunteer sign up forms in the gym. Need reps for various events present. Possibly do a second volunteer sign up at Festival of Arts mid way through the year.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Melanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Carolina. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.