

**Saint Katharine Drexel Parish School
School Advisory Commission Minutes
9.8.26 6:15 pm**

Attendees:

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

Absent:

None

Call to Order:

Adam White called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Opening Prayer:

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Will.

Introduction of Guests:

Marybeth Schessow, Lauren Crombie, Susan Pokey

Guest Comments:

None

Approval of Minutes:

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

Good News

- Lindsey reported a good start to the school year.
- Ms. Weiss also reported a great start to the school year. The kids appear to be very happy.

Pastor's Report - Father Will

- Faith Formation orientation night will be held on September 9th.

Principal's Report - Jenny Weiss

Principal's Report September 8, 2026

We love, because He first loved us. ~ Nosotros amamos porque Él nos amó primero.

1. All open positions for the 2026-2027 school year have been filled.
We welcome...
Seventh Grade Teacher, Mr. Chad Olsen
Literacy Support Specialist Gr. 4-8, Ms. Jennifer Fitzgerald
Director of Food Services, Ms. Hayley Kong
Classroom Aide/Playground Supervisor, Ms. Bailey Morell
2. Teaching Assignments:
Ms. Crombie: Grade 8 Religion, ELA, and Science; Grade 7 Science;
Grade 6 ELA
Mr. Olsen: Grade 7 Religion, Grade 7 ELA, Grades 6-8 Social Studies
Mrs. Pokey: Grade 6 Religion, Math, and Science; Grade 7 Math, and
Grade 8 Math
Ms. Kessenich: Grades 4 & 5 Math and Science, Grade 5 Social
Studies
Mr. Laning: Grade 5 Religion
Mrs. Sadoski: Grade 4 Religion, Grades 4 & 5 ELA
Mrs. Puleo: Grade 3- teaches all core subjects
Mrs. Crombie: Grade 2- teaches all core subjects
Ms. Meyer: Grade 1- teaches all core subjects
Ms. Warmka: Kindergarten- teaches all core subjects
Mrs. Buchda: 4K- teaches all core subjects
Mrs. Cargen: 3K- teaches all core subjects
Mrs. Calvo-Gil: Grades 1-8 Spanish, assists with our ELL students, and
translations
Ms. Lopas: Instrumental Music Grades 5-8, Library Grades 1-8
Mrs. Hoffman: Vocal Music Grades 5K-8
Mrs. Bloohm: Physical Education Grades 4K-8, Health Grades 6-8
Mrs. Zander: Art Grades 5K-8

Literacy Support Specialists: Mrs. Rechek and Ms. Fitzgerald support students' literacy needs in grades 5K-8.

Student Support Specialist: Mr. Crombie supports students' math needs in grades 5K-8 and teaches Grade 4 Social Studies.

3. This year's open house went well. I again received positive feedback about holding the family meeting in the church. Many families took items from Cougar's Closet. The school supplies the parish collected in July were available to families during the Cougar's Closet Open House on August 11 and again at the Open House.

4. Current enrollment numbers for the 2026-2027 school year: 172

•	Preschool	18
•	4K	17
•	5K	16
•	1st	14
•	2nd	16
•	3rd	9
•	4th	20
•	5th	12
•	6th	18
•	7th	18
•	8th	14

*We have 59 students who have accepted their Choice voucher for the 2026-2027 School year.

5. This year has started off very well.
 - a. The classroom, lunch, and recess schedules are working well.
 - b. We have had two school Masses with last year's safety protocols in place.
 - c. 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. During the first Liturgy Practice each month, we will have Adoration and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On September 1, we did this for the first time as

a whole school. It was beautiful to see how many students received the sacrament.

- d. Our students seem happy to be back!
6. This year we are offering a compacted Algebra 1/Geometry class to five of our 8th grade students. After completion, they will earn two high school credits.
7. Our Forward Exam data review session was on Friday, August 14. Teachers of grades 3K-8 and Literacy Support teachers met at 9:30 a.m. to review the data from last year. Forward Exam results, set up our testing windows for Math (iReady, IXL, Forward) and ELA (Phonics Screeners, Reading Readiness, IXL, My View (except Middle School), Acadience, Forward) for the year, and schedule the students working with our Literacy and Math Support teachers. Teachers in 3K-2 met to review the data from last year and will prepare for their implementation at the August 15 meeting as well. Here is the [2026 Forward Exam Data for Grades 3-8](#) for your review. Ms. Weiss provided an overview of the Forward Exam data.
8. On Monday, August 24, 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 well received by our students and laid a strong foundation for establishing healthy boundaries and guidelines moving forward.
9. Our Vesta school choice audit was on August 31 and September 1 and focused on the financial end of the previous school year. Everything went well, and we are currently in compliance with all requirements! Vesta will conduct our next school choice audit on October 26-27.
10. Reports due: The Third Friday Count will be done on September 17, 18, & 21. The Annual Report is due on September 30, 2026, and the Required PI-1207 Private School Data Collection Application opens on September 21, 2026, and is due on October 15, 2026.
11. We will have new lettering above the St. Cecilia's Entrance and the Inner Court Doors.

12. We added exterior-facing classroom numbers to all the new windows.
13. On Tuesday, September 15, Fr. Will and I will attend a gathering at the Arch to discuss our parish schools' role in evangelization. This event addresses a strategic goal for the archdiocesan staff to strengthen the Catholic identity and solidify the organizational health of our parish schools.
14. On Tuesday, October 20, I will attend the Principal's Fall Area Meeting in Slinger.
15. Theme Day planning is underway. Theme Day is Friday, September 25.

Pastoral Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on Tuesday, September 1st.

- Primary discussion was updates on the merging process among parishes in Western Dodge County.
- After September, meeting will be every other month.

Saint Katharine Drexel Pastoral Council and other five Councils from Western Dodge County met on Tuesday, August 4th.

- Limited school discussion beyond updates to ongoing projects.
- Discussion of the need for our Church to be seen as a living part of people's lives seven days a week.
- Introduction of Brad Berghouse.

Finance Council - Liaison update - John Bowser (Trustee)

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on August 25, 2026:

- Much of the discussion was focused on accounting practices and how the Council would like to see income and expenses documented
- Specific to the school
 - School window project is completed
 - AC mini-split project in the main office, library, Jenny's office is completed

- Concerns about staffing for school fundraisers was brought up for...
 - This year = Catholic Schools Walk
 - Future years = Pancake Breakfast and Glitz
- Potential for additional staffing in extend-a-day room, if enrollment requires, was approved

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Finance Council met on July 21, 2026:

- Limited discussion on school beyond updates on projects that were completed later in the summer
- School budget was discussed. Given the timing of forthcoming income and the number of projects, it looks like a deficit more severe than it is in actuality.

Unfinished Business

- Parking concerns - Carolina provided some suggestions on how to improve the flow of parking and drop off/pick up to ensure the safety of our students. We would like Long Range Planning, Safety, and Building and Grounds to look into ideas for improvement.
- Initial discussion on Glitz special auction item - asking Finance Council to provide guidance.
- Catholic Schools Walk - Brad Berghouse will be leading the initiative.

Closing Prayer:

Father Will led us in closing prayer.

Adjournment:

Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Melanie.
Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.