

St. Joseph Catholic School committee minutes.

May 7, 2026

Attendance: Kimberley Bayer, Michael Beard, Jeremy Blackwood, Mrs. Bons, Fr. Justin, Sister Merin, Kate Morgan, Sara Quates, Mike Reger, Johanna Schmanski, Sarah Tolliver, Bryanna Van Vreede, Monica Warren, Bart Wolf.

Meeting began before 6:38 pm

1. *Principal's Report.* Meeting began with specific questions for the principal related to Catholic identity, academic excellence, physical education, governance of school committee, and the current lack of an instrumental program. Discussion of the ways in which these topics have been addressed this year. The preeminent priorities for the principal, following recent advice from the archdiocese and other data, are Catholic identity and academic excellence, with a goal of applying for exemplary recognition by the archdiocese in the near future.
2. *Parent teacher conferences.* It was proposed that spring conferences be mandatory for all parents. Other members agree that parents who are already engaged with the teachers generally do not need a spring conference. However, the language of the conference invitations will be made warmer and more encouraging of families who wish to have a conference so they do not feel they are inconveniencing the staff. It is noted that the staff are required to always timely communicate concerns about students as they arise throughout the year and that this is in general a strength for St. Joe's.
3. *New members.* Three additional members have been proposed and are willing to accept. They will be invited to the May 26

meeting and if they all accept it will not be necessary to have an election this year.

4. *Parade.* The Memorial Day parade will take place on May 25. We will once again have a float.
5. *Academic excellence and Catholic identity.* Kimberley proposes having a periodic zoom meeting, in which families can easily log on for a discussion of academic enrichment in the Catholic context. This plan will continue to be refined.
6. *New Families.* The school is welcoming many new families next year. Plans are underway to select a date for a community picnic so the families can connect. Plans are also to assign mentor families again.
7. *Pastor's Report.* Enrollment is projected to decrease this year. This is historically typical for the year after a new principal starts, and this year's attrition will be lower than previous principal change years. Some attrition is also due to families moving states and graduating a large 8th grade class. We are retaining the entire 3K class into 4K. Leadership is continuing to make a plan to address enrollment changes.
8. *Additional principal's report.*
 - YMCA will provide more structured morning and afternoon extend care next year.
 - A request has been made for a new 5th–8th grade Spanish teacher for next year.
 - Discussion about plans for accelerated math for upper grades.
 - Beginning next year, grades 5K–5 will have a dedicated two-hour uninterrupted literacy block focused on reading,

writing, and ELA, with an increased focus on small group instruction.

- FACTS communication platform implementation is on its way. It is essentially a “MyChart” for schools. Email and texts can be sent through FACTS and teachers and parents can use it to communicate. It will manage extended care billing and hot lunch payments.
- Technology updates: the technology position will not be directly replaced. School is evaluating how technology instruction will be integrated moving forward, including typing and keyboarding. Emphasis placed on younger students learning mouse skills while also reducing unnecessary screen time.
- Administration will meet with the Finance Council next month.

9. *Pastoral Council*. Beer garden planning is underway. There will be another meat raffle which was a major success last year. Discussion of delegating Donut Sundays to subcommittees.

10. *Home and School*. There is money for field trips now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm