

School Advisory Committee September 4, 2025 - Minutes

The meeting began with prayer and attendance roll. Principal updates included a celebration of Blessed Carlos Acutus, a new Catholic identity initiative, and plans to introduce a "10 Ways to Defend the Faith" pamphlet monthly. The school needs 15 new computers for teachers and students, with a potential budget of \$12,000. Grants are being explored for gym roof repairs and other improvements. Volunteer incentives, such as free game entry, were discussed to boost participation.

Academic initiatives include a new math series, ELA resource room, and a spring musical. The Frenzy program for K-4 students and leadership training for staff were also highlighted.

Action Items

- Introduce a weekly prayer for Blessed Carlo Acutis on Mondays.
- Produce and share the "10 Ways to Defend the Faith" pamphlet with parents monthly.
- Explore options for enhancing Catholic Schools Week activities, potentially with an assembly or other special event.
- Obtain bids for replacing approximately 15 teacher computers, exploring cost-saving measures like volume licensing. (completed – parish donor has covered)
- Apply for grants to fund a new roof membrane for the gym.
- Investigate volunteer hour programs at other local Catholic schools to inform the school's approach.
- Offer free entry or other incentives to volunteers for athletic events.
- Explore tying volunteer requirements to tuition assistance for families.

Outline

Principal Updates and Catholic Identity (0:00)

- Mr. Ricard discusses the Friday celebration of Blessed Carlos Acutus, emphasizing the importance of Catholic identity and the role of saints from various eras.
- Mrs. Sebastian initiated the celebration last year, and Mr. Ricard plans to continue it by reading a prayer over the PA system every Monday.
- Mr. Ricard mentions a pamphlet titled "10 Ways to Defend the Faith" for grade school students, which will be introduced monthly.
- The teachers have requested the PTC to help design fun, faithful activities for Catholic Schools Week, and the PTC is working on organizing an assembly.

Volleyball Uniforms and Operational Vitality

(3:33)

- Mr. Ricard brings up the issue of volleyball uniforms, specifically the request for spandex shorts, which was met with opposition from the advisory board.
- The school needs newer computers for both staff and students, with teachers needing updates first due to the upcoming Windows 11 update.
- The PTC has historically funded computer purchases for teachers and students, and there is a potential for additional funding from the business manager.
- Speaker 2 suggests purchasing computers with Linux and re-imaging them with Windows to save money, which Mr. Ricard considers.

Grant Applications and Volunteer Incentives

(10:20)

- Mr. Ricard mentions looking for grants for building improvements, such as a new gym roof, and the possibility of applying for Michigan-specific grants.
- The MESC offers \$500 grants for teachers to improve classroom programs, and Mr. Ricard encourages teachers to apply.
- Mr. Ricard discusses the need for marketing and advancement within the school, mentioning past efforts and the current lack of volunteers.
- Speaker 2 suggests offering incentives like free entry to games for volunteers to increase participation.

Academic Excellence and Leadership Training

(26:29)

- Mr. Ricard recaps the academic excellence initiatives, including gathering publishers for a new math series and designing plans to increase student learning.
- Mrs. Pavlick is working with struggling students in math and ELA, using STAAR testing results to identify areas of need.
- The spring musical director, Mrs. Maples, has been found, and the school is considering the musical "Annie."
- Mr. Ricard is training Mr. Rubio as the athletic director and will be attending a series of trainings through the Department of Catholic Schools.

Frenzy Program and Governance (29:55)

- The Frenzy program, which promotes positive interaction and problem-solving among students, will be launched by teachers K-4.
- Mrs. Sebastian will take over the Frenzy program for fifth grade, and the program will continue through high school.

- Mr. Ricard trained Mr. Rubio as the athletic director, and he will be assisted by Mrs. Gordon, the cross country coach.
- Mr. Ricard will attend a conference at Boyne Mountain for the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools teachers and administration.

-Jeff Riehl

Recommended addition to SAC Meeting Minutes:

A committee member commented that he had been approached by several parents who asked if any additional security was being considered as a result of the Church/School shooting in Minneapolis last month.

After a general discussion of security improvements made recently, the subject of hiring armed security for the school was discussed. End result was a recommendation to explore the possibility, potentials for funding and other options, if any.

In addition, Mr. Satfield recommend seeking further parent input to determine support for additional security.

*** This subject will be discussed next month to determine what is possible and costs related to same.