

SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI
Springfield Catholic High School - Room #301

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Present: Kent Lammers, Jane Fairchild, Ryan O'Reilly, Jeanne Skahan, Larry O'Reilly, Paige Duda, Margaret Calliotte, Cheryl Bond, Becky Conroy, JoAnne Bailes, Ashley Harris, Lindsay Wright, Brian Pyck, , Fr. Tom Kiefer, and Sr. Cecilia Ann

Absent: Fr. Patrick Nwokoye, Boyd Crockett, Fr. Lewis Hejna

Guest: Brian Pyck, SCS Athletic Director

OPENING PRAYER 6:06 p.m. Fr. Tom Kiefer opened the meeting with a prayer.

REVIEW OF CONSENT ITEMS

The January Minutes and Consent Agenda and items were reviewed prior to the meeting. Kent Lammers asked for a motion to approve the consent items and minutes. This motion was made by Larry O'Reilly and seconded by Jane Fairchild. The motion was approved.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Brian Pyck is the Springfield Catholic Schools Athletic Director. He provided a handout that contained updates including facilities planning, program updates, and future opportunities. He discussed the importance of being good stewards of the property and the need for a long-term plan but emphasizes that the plan is not set in stone and is open to suggestions and feedback. Brian also shared some celebrations with pictures of students participating in various athletic programs and mock-ups of future plans for our facilities. Other updates include:

- Bids are out for a new sound system and press box. The school, booster club, and construction committee are working together to share the cost of this project.
- The Hudl camera for baseball has arrived and is in storage until weather permits installation.
- Considerations for a youth club administrator position, becoming MSHSAA "Member School", and evaluations of current programs and future possibilities are all ongoing.
- Brian shared stories of teams praying before and after games, the dance team's recent successes and travels, students getting great use of the golf simulator, and Super Fans using the t-shirt cannon at an IC assembly.

REPORTS

Financial Statements: Margaret Calliotte presented the December and January reports, detailing cash equivalents and accounts receivable. She also shared the enrollment report that shows we are overall down only 3 students from revised budget (up 4 students from last report) with enrollment remaining stable at 1,284 students across all grades. While reports are showing overall enrollment looking positive, maintaining and improving enrollment numbers for the future remains important.

Director of Schools: Sr. Cecilia Ann shared about the success of Catholic Schools Week (January 26th-31st). All SCS Schools participated in the week and many great celebrations and acts of service took place. Students participated in spirit days, dressing up in various themes and showing school spirit. Some highlights were students collecting and donating items for various organizations including Catholic Charities, Sammy's Window, and local Catholic schools in our diocese. They also participated in writing letters to members of the community, school wide celebrations, and staff lunches.

Discussion centered around a recent incident at IC involving an individual who spoke at the podium after a school Mass. Concerns were raised about the security of the church and the need to balance welcoming visitors with ensuring safety for students and school staff. Suggestions include having a security officer at the church entrance and better monitoring of visitors. No conclusion was reached, but suggestions are being considered and will be discussed at a later date.

Other updates included:

- On January 21st, the Endowment Committee met to review the Teacher Classroom Grant requests. There were many great requests and most were granted.
- On February 14th, SCS staff and St. Joseph's Catholic Academy have an in-service day. There is a variety of breakout sessions including William Woods University, a presentation about Magic School AI, and Gender ID questions with Deacon Huff and Rachelle Parker. In the afternoon, staff will participate in service projects at local sites.
- We are in the slow-but-sure process of looking for new principals at SEAS and SCHS.

Director of Development: Becky Conroy shared about the success of the Phone-A-Thon during Catholic Schools Week. The House System supported the event and involved great student body participation. Efforts from the Development office include digital elements, emails, and social media to promote and encourage participation from the SCS community. The Day of Giving total was more than last year (which was around \$37,000) and totaled \$49,577. She also discussed recent marketing efforts to recruit new families for the next year including dropping off recruitment materials to local daycares, private school profiles, and targeted ads. Emerald Evening and the Shepherds' Fund were also mentioned, with a focus on securing sponsorships and maximizing a \$150,000 match gift as ongoing efforts through emails, social media, and outreach from the Emerald Evening committee and the SCS Development Office.

OLD BUSINESS:

Maintenance Committee Larry O'Reilly gave a quick overview of minutes and updates including:

- Maintenance of the school, including the installation of new lighting and the need for fencing.
- The need for a comprehensive plan for the use of the school's property and the importance of securing the area.
- And the continuous work on fencing and other maintenance projects to ensure the safety and functionality of the school.

Policy Committee: We had the second reading of the policy:

- 2.28 Teacher Contracts

There was no further discussion on the policy. Kent Lammers asked for a motion to approve the above policy. Jane Fairchild made a motion to approve the second reading of the policy and Larry O'Reilly seconded the motion. The policy was approved.

NEW BUSINESS – none

CLOSING PRAYER: Sr. Cecilia Ann closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.