

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9th, 2025

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

Guest: Scarlett Weis

OPENING PRAYER 6:05 p.m. Sr. Cecilia Ann opened the meeting with a prayer.

REVIEW OF CONSENT ITEMS

The December 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 Ryan O'Reilly and seconded by Boyd Crockett. The motion was approved.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Scarlett Weis is the lead person for our Springfield Catholic Schools Intervention Program. She provided a handout that contained program overview information. Scarlett also orally shared a few highlights of the program thus far this year:

- 83 individual students across the three PS-8 Grade schools are being directly impacted.
- Additional students are being assisted as the interventionists also "push in" to the classroom to assist specific students and students in general.
- At St. Agnes, 95% of students made gains on their iReady test, and 50% moved from the intervention range to grade level. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Immaculate Conception students will be taking their second iReady tests in the upcoming weeks so more data will be available.
- The middle school intervention focus includes helping students with organization, executive functioning, and tracking assignments.
- Being able to work with teachers and to assist small groups with writing projects has been very beneficial especially at the 5-8 grade level.

REPORTS

Financial Statements: Margaret Calliotte reported that the December and January financials will be presented at our February School Board meetings since our January 6, 2025, Finance Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Margaret Calliotte, however, did share the enrollment report. We are overall down seven students from revised budget. We were down 5 in the PS/PK; up 1 student in the elementary; and down 3 at the high school level. Our total enrollment at this time is 1,371 students. Margaret also provided two handouts showing where (ages and schools) the drops and adds occurred and how this financially affected the budget. Due to the fact that six students have dropped extended or daycare we lost \$25,601 from the budget. This was the biggest factor contributing to the current \$44,996 loss.

Director of Schools: Sr. Cecilia Ann shared that on Friday, January 3, 2025, faculty from our three elementary schools who participate in the Kids for Kids program participated in a virtual review/training for this year's program that will be carried out second semester. The Hatch Foundation is assisting us with part of the cost of the program once again, but each of the schools was also able to contribute using funds from their 3rd Grade Mini Mall proceeds or other school fundraisers. The final event will be on May 7, 2025, at the Hammons Field. Sister shared that the Endowment Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, to go over the Teacher Endowment Grant requests. We have received a lot of good proposals.

The 2025-26 school year calendar was reviewed. Springfield Public Schools just published their calendar for next school year, so we were able to confirm that we have the same week in March marked off for Spring Break. After reviewing the 2025-26 calendar, Kent Lammers asked that it be put to a vote. Jane Fairchild made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Springfield Catholic Schools school calendar and Larry O'Reilly seconded it. The motion was approved.

Sister Cecilia Ann also shared that our schools took part in the Epiphany Blessing of doorways in their schools. She is also asking our schools to all participate in the Jubilee Year by dedicating a Holy Door in their buildings, and to utilize various lesson plans and suggestions provided by the USCCB, a Vatican website, and several Catholic companies.

Sister Cecilia Ann announced that Tony Vienhage began as our School Protection Officer at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Director of Development: Becky Conroy reported that the Alumni Association Basketball game will be tomorrow night, January 10, 2025, weather permitting. It will be a girls' basketball game which doesn't often happen for a Friday game, so that makes it extra fun. Becky Conroy also shared that during Catholic Schools Week, January 26-February 1, 2025, a new version of the phone-a-thon will take place during the school day. The House System will be used and the event will focus on student body participation, digital elements and social media. Also discussed were marketing efforts to recruit new families for the next year including postcards, private school profiles, and targeted ads. Emerald Evening and the Shepherds' Fund were mentioned, with a focus on securing sponsorships and maximizing a \$150,000 match gift. Becky Conroy also announced that Laura McBride has been hired as the new marketing assistant. She brings with her a strong communication and education background. Her responsibilities include communication, supporting the central office, and taking minutes for the school board. Laura McBride will begin her employment with us on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of the 2025-26 Schol Year Operating Budget: Margaret presented the second reading of the 2025-26 school year budget. Nothing has changed since last month. The budget reflects a 3.5% increase on tuition and a 5% increase on the teachers' base salary. Kent Lammers commented that previously we have had a lot of discussion on the budget and Margaret has worked very hard to supply the Finance Committee with various options to review. What has been put forward by the Finance Committee is very well thought out. Kent asked for a motion to approve the 2025-26 school year budget. Ryan O'Reilly made a motion to approve the budget and Boyd Crockett seconded it. The motion to approve the 2025-26 budget passed.

Policy Committee: We had the second reading of policies:

- 2.21 – Hepatitis Vaccination
- 2.22 – Confidentiality
- 2.24 – Notification of Retirement
- 2.25 – New Teacher/Employee Orientation

There was no further discussion on the policies. Kent Lammers asked for a motion to approve the above policies. Jane Fairchild made a motion to approve the second reading of the policies and Boyd Crockett seconded the motion. The policies were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy Committee: We had the first reading of policy:

- 2.28 Teacher Contracts

The Teacher Contracts policy was discussed. Cheryl Bond, the Director of Human Relations, and the Policy Committee is suggesting a slight change in wording to align with diocesan policy for contract offer dates.

Brian Pyck, Athletic Director, invited all to attend a presentation on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. It will be held in the cafeteria of Springfield Catholic High School. The presentation will be given by Natalie Allen, Team Dietitian, from Missouri State University. She will be talking about nutrition needs and concerns for athletes. Brian Pyck then presented a decision to adopt the Hudl system for baseball. It seems the most financially feasible and in alignment with what is offered for other sports. The Hudl system was described as a compromise, with concerns about equity and the potential cost for other sports. A lengthy sports discussion was had about parent requests, hopes, future needs, financial needs, etc... At this time, the decision to adopt the Hudl system for baseball seems to be the most prudent. Kent Lammers asked for a motion to accept the decision to adopt the Hudl system for baseball. Ryan O'Reilly made the motion and Fr. Lewis Hejna seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ashley Harris, principal of Immaculate Conception School, shared that one of her middle school teachers, Christine Cunningham, submitted a request to the Turner Family Foundation for a \$10,000 grant to obtain Flash Hoops Curriculum, a program that merges movement and math. The program was described as a supplemental curriculum to enhance foundational math skills. The curriculum will be used in after-school programs and potentially in classrooms, with an app for home practice. Kent Lammers asked for a motion to approve the acceptance of the \$10,000 donation. Jane Fairchild made a motion to approve the \$10,000 donation for the purchase of Flash Hoops Curriculum. Larry O'Reilly seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Lewis Hejna closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:58 p.m.

The meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.