



Saint Michael School

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St. Michael School Board Minutes

May 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer (Dave)

II. Mission Statement Recital (all)

We are committed to providing students an exemplary education centered on traditional Catholic values, inspiring them to walk with God, learn, grow, and serve.

III. Roll Call (Mikki)

- A. Dave Faber, Karen Gostomski, Fr. Tom Boufford, Chuck Morrison, Dee Powell, Lisa Smith, Amber Snow, Niki Ray, Tracy Lambert, Mikki Edwards

IV. Approval of April 4th and April 30th Minutes (Chuck)

- A. Motion to approve: Chuck
- B. Second: Amber
- C. Approved

V. Approval of Agenda (Chuck)

- A. Motion to approve: Chuck
- B. Second: Mikki
- C. Approved

VI. Discussion/Updates (Karen and Mr. Faber)

- A. Recognition of Dave Faber, Superintendent of Schools with the Grand Rapids Diocese
 - a. Enrollment is the highest it has been in the last 16 years, perhaps longer (93 students right now PS - 6). 2012 and last year were the previous two highest years, at 88 students. Congratulations!
 - b. Average class size last year was 14, this year it is 17. The diocese recommends a classroom average of 18-24. The previous several years have averaged between 13 and 14 students. Paying close attention to those class sizes is essential for maintaining the viability of the school for years to come.
 - c. The foundation that we have here at St. Michael's currently gives \$1,000 to each family; this is not best-practice. A more sound practice is giving it as needed for some families. Some families will need it, plus more, where others may need none or less.
 - i. Research shows that students who received a Catholic school education will earn 13.6% in their lifetime than those that did not attend Catholic schools. It is a great investment.
 - d. Shared time: Chippewa Hills has offered great options to work with us on many of the factors that we had concerns about, such as the specials' teachers wages, them not choosing our teachers but allowing us to, etc. However, Chippewa Hills not offering art for K-4 could be enough to go with Brighton-Jackson.
 - e. GSRP is a good move financially.

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- f. We have a large population of non-Catholic families. That is an excellent evangelization opportunity.
- g. The board survey will be coming out soon to be complete as a group.
 - i. There is a matrix to follow for recruiting new board members. There should be no more than 40% parent members on the school board. It is available on the Drive and in the resources that were provided at the Spring School Board Summit. All of the school board resources are available in the Board Notebook at <https://grdiocese.org/schools/office-of-catholic-schools-resources/>
- h. Presented “Bridging Faith and Future” strategic plan for 2023-2028.

VII. Communications

- A. I’m excited to share that we are awarding a scholarship at Chippewa Hills on May 9th at 7:00 p.m. to Marcus Barnes. He was our only St. Michael alum applicant. He will receive \$500 from St. Michael. This money was donated by two families for us to begin this scholarship again. This scholarship will be from St. Michael School in the same amount as we move forward through the years.
 - a. Going forward in order to reinstate this scholarship annually, we need to commit to continuing this scholarship.
 - i. Motion: Lisa
 - ii. Second: Mikki
 - iii. Approved

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. **Building, Grounds & Safety** (Chuck)
 - a. There is a meeting on May 7th at 3:30 to go over where each of the groups (finance and safety) is at with the safety fundraising money to decide what decisions can be made to move forward at this point. Currently at about \$62,000. All of the stop the bleed kits and safety buckets are in and in place in the classrooms. No money was taken out of the fundraising funds for these because they were all sponsored.
- B. **Marketing & Communications** (Karen)
 - a. Website is going well along with the marketing that we have been using. Facebook has been the most successful. A form has been updated to separate out the different social media platforms so that parents can opt out of some of them that they are not comfortable with their student’s photos being posted.
- C. **Development - Foundation/Recruitment** (Fr. Tom)
 - a. Father recommended that we potentially go through the Diocesan provided resources for school boards and spend a bit of time each meeting going through different areas from this.
- D. **Finance** ()
- E. **Planning & Policy/ Mission Effectiveness** (Karen)
 - a. We do need to create our strategic plan and would like to reach out to the person at the diocese that Dave recommended so that we can have some guidance in the process.
- F. **Technology** ()
- G. **Home & School** (Karen and Mikki)
 - a. Blessing of the Cars concessions will be held at the school on Saturday, with proceeds going to the school.
 - b. Karen proposed a draft of a letter asking families to commit to volunteering and this will be discussed at our next meeting.
- H. **Other Committee Updates?** ()

IX. Action Items - Proposed Policies (Karen)

- A. Shared time contract discussion
 - a. The board reached out to Karen and expressed their desire to still proceed forward with everything that we had previously discussed. Dave has a concern about the uncertainty in the new leadership for Chippewa Hills, but it's up to us to decide what will be best for us. He also recommended that Karen go to the school board with both contracts and go line-by-line because the diocese will approve the Brighton-Jackson contract.

X. Old Business/Comments from the Floor

- A. Based on the comments from Dave with regards to how our foundation monies are applied to all students, we can have further discussion as we go forward.
- B. Tuition conversations need to begin in the coming meetings to plan ahead for a tuition increase for the 2025-2026 school year.

XI. Father's Comment and Principal Update

- A. Budget talks from Thursday morning (Karen)
- B. The date of the color run will be changing due to a death in Karen's family

XII. Dismissal prayer

XIII. Next Meeting: June 6, 2024