

Holy Childhood of Jesus School

School Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20th, 2025@ 6:30 p.m. – Parish Center

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m. (Principal: Tim Keefe)

Opening Prayer: Dcn Dan Cozzi

Attendance: Father Mark Stec, Principal – Tim Keefe, President- Mike Brennan (absent), Matt Schroeder, Patrick Stumpf, Amy Uptergrove, Brian Spears, Mykale Elbe (absent), Deacon Dan Cozzi, Troy Gryga (absent)

Guests: Paula Proffitt, Holy Childhood Trustee

Approval of Previous Minutes: Mr. Keefe has loaded the Jan meeting minutes to the Google Drive for review. Several board members are absent today, so minutes were reviewed and approved via email.

Principal's Report: Mr. Keefe discussed the Principal's report.

I. Items of emphasis

a. General Information:

- i. Special thanks to Robert Kennedy, Clayton Proffitt, and Derek Bryant for clearing the parking lot during the recent bad weather.
- ii. New Federal Laws: Mr. Keefe reviewed copy of revised Immigration support guidance from the Diocese. Do not anticipate any local action required.
- iii. Catholic Schools Week review: The week went very smoothly. There were many fun events and the community projects were again a great way to actively live faith during that week.
- iv. ECCA Legislation: Mr. Keefe mentioned that there is rumblings that Empower may be considered in the future, however there is nothing solid yet. He updated newer board members on the use of the endowment to provide support as needed in the absence of program.
- v. Tim will be taking on more fiduciary responsibility for the school. He will be looking for a volunteer School Board member to step up to assist sometime in the near future.
- vi. School will be in session March 17th to make up a snow day. This will allow HCS to finish school year before Memorial day.

II. Faith Formation

- a. Father Mark provided a “Word on Fire” book that discuss many of the best practices of some of the most thriving Catholica Schools to school board members. He noted that, although we cannot implement many of their programs/procedures, we could use the book to garner ideas that we can potentially utilize at HCS. He would like board members to come prepared to discuss the first chapter next month.

III. Curriculum & Extracurricular

- a. Next year, the aftercare program will move to the cafeteria to allow more flexibility in Pre-K classrooms.
- b. Middle School math curriculum is going well. **No significant update on curriculum. Our kids are scoring slightly lower on computation, so Mr. Keefe will review this summer.**
- c. Chess Club: Ms. Schwarzkof has started an HCS Chess Club. Mr Patriquin is also assisting and will be printing 3D chess pieces for sets that have missing pieces.
- d. Spanish Class: Mr. Keefe will be exploring the possibility of having a Spanish class next year. He will be reaching out to Mascoutah District 119 to look at transferability or credits.
- e. **Future extracurricular activities are still being explored. It was noted that a memorial donation from a previous student was received to specifically support music, choir, band etc.**

V. Employees & Employment

- a. 2025-26 Pre-K is close to capacity. Mr. Keefe is exploring need for additional teacher assistance in Pre-K to accommodate growth.

VI. Facilities:

- a. Mike Brennan is working on the window project and related asbestos testing requirement.
- b. Mr. Keefe is exploring the possibility of swapping Middle school/Elementary “floors” for 2026-27 school year

VII. Technology: no report

VIII. School in the Community

- a. Sneaker and Sparkles Daddy/Daughter Dance will occur next month, sponsored by HOPE committee.
- b. The Athletic Board will be hosting Volleyball 8th grade Night and a Community Fish Fry fundraiser.

Open Items:

Dinner Auction Donation: The board was reminded that we are hosting Casino Night as our donation from the auction. The event will be co-sponsored by Robert “Chick” Fritz Distributing and the School Board on March 8th. The board will be providing food and entertainment. All board members are asked to volunteer their time to host. Thank you to Robert “Chick” Fritz Distributing for donating the venue.

Website Updates: A basic review of the HCS website has been completed. Pictures of the new teachers are up. The website will require further review of pictures when time allows.

Pre-K Space (2025-26): Mr. Keefe provided an update on Pre-K 2025-26. Attendance is going up for Pre-K, so various courses of action regarding classroom space are being discussed to accommodate growing attendance for Pre-K.

The board also discussed the “fee discount” that is provided to parents that intend to transition from Pre-K to K-8. Dcn Dan suggested we look at modifying or “flipping” this discount to a K-8 tuition credit for those transitioning from Pre-K vs an upfront Pre-K discount.

New Business:

Window Replacement Project: Mike Brennan is working on the window project and related asbestos testing requirement.

Next Meeting Date: March 20th, 2025

Closing Prayer: Fr Mark Stec

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn (Matt Schroeder), 2nd (Patrick Stumpf) - 7:35 pm

Executive Session: Not required