

School Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – December 2025

Attendees: Fr. Mark; Mr. Keefe (Principal); Mike Brennan; Dennis McLenney; Felicia Ryckert; Troy Gryga; Paula Proffitt.

Opening Prayer: Led by Fr. Mark.

Minutes Approved: November minutes approved with minor name corrections.

I. Principal's Report

I.a Religious Education Integration (Lilly Foundation / Diocesan Grant)

- Diocese received a Lilly Foundation grant to strengthen parish-wide religious education and family involvement.
- Goal: Integrate faith formation beyond school hours (parish + families), not limited to classroom time.
- Example discussed: Move the 5th Grade Saint Museum to a Sunday after Mass to increase parent and parish participation; include PSR/RE students as well.
- Potential model: Parents/grandparents lead or participate in saint presentations/teaching.
- Continue monthly family gatherings on Sundays (e.g., rosary-making, prayer activities) to build habits at home.
- Timeline: Begin groundwork next semester; target broader implementation during 2026 (first semester referenced).

I.b Recent Events Highlights

- Special Persons Day: Strong attendance; successful execution.
- Santa's Cottage: Positive interaction between older and younger students; strong community-building impact.
- Christmas Concert: Successful; highlighted growing band participation and long-term plan to increase involvement.
- Santa Visit Adjustment: Modified due to illness; alternative classroom approach used and may be repeated next year.
- Staff Appreciation: Massage therapy offered as a Christmas staff treat.
- Family Adoration Night: Reported strong attendance and positive feedback.
- Athletics: 8th-grade basketball night had high energy; emphasis on maintaining positive school spirit.

I.c Upcoming Dates / Activities

- Confirmation Retreat: January 17, 2026.
- Catholic Schools Week: Late January; Open House scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026 (primarily younger-family attendance).
- Athletics: Basketball tournaments and diocesan events resume after winter break; volleyball season to follow.

II. Operations & Facilities

II.a Staffing

- Ms. Hill retiring to spend time with family.
- Mrs. Stumpf will take over Friday duties; already serving as a substitute.

II.b Facilities / Technology

- Windows project: Continuing; updated funding details to be shared privately. Goal remains summer installation for 2026–2027 readiness.
- Cafeteria inspection/audit: Scheduled for January 21, 2026; preparations underway with food service lead.
- Elevator door lock monitor (state mandate): Required by 2029; vendor estimates increase annually.

III. Financial Update

III.a Pre-K Budget Projection

- Pre-K tuition is the primary income source for the program.
- Projection for FY ending June 30, 2026 indicates approximately \$32,000 surplus if current path holds.
- Surplus supports more proactive planning and budgeting adjustments for next year.

III.b Tuition Review / Scholarships

- Tuition comparison completed across multiple diocesan schools; school remains among the most affordable (discussion noted the need for apples-to-apples comparisons re: pay-in-full discounts).
- Tuition and scholarship/aid structure to be finalized before the January 25 Open House.
- Plan: Develop a one-page parent-facing summary outlining tuition and financial aid options.

- Discussion: After the loss of the Empower program, aid has been supported via endowment; board emphasized sustainability and potential revision of aid percentages (e.g., reconsidering 80/60/40 scale).

III.c Grants / Safety

- Scott Credit Union grant application for panic buttons was not awarded; school will pursue alternate funding options for safety improvements.

IV. New Initiative: GooseChase Family Fun Challenge (Screen-Time Reduction)

- Purpose: Encourage family time, faith practices, and reduced student screen use through an incentive-based challenge.
- Runs: December 19, 2025 to May 1, 2026; future summer and fall rounds planned.
- Structure: Missions earn points (low to high value) with repeatable activities (e.g., device-free meals, prayer at meals, family activities, service projects).
- Rewards: Tiered incentives for students and families (e.g., dress-down days; family experiences such as bowling).
- Participation: Families can form teams; extended family may be included where allowed by platform settings.
- Platform: GooseChase app; instructions provided in paper form and will be linked on the website and in the newsletter.
- Teacher role: Teachers informed but not responsible for tracking; questions routed to administration.
- Admin tools: Leaderboard and mission popularity tracking allow refinement of missions and point values.
- Cost: Approximately \$500–\$550 for the first year (discounted); expected increase in future years.

V. Other Business / Action Items

- Website: Advisory Board meeting notes need updating; only September currently posted. Action: Ensure current notes are uploaded/maintained.
- Casino Night: Date TBD; planning underway and date to be confirmed via email.

VI. Next Meeting

- Thursday, January 15, 2026 – Parish Center (unless otherwise communicated).

VII. Closing

- Closing prayer led by Fr. Mark (Glory Be).
- Meeting adjourned with holiday well-wishes.