

Guardian Angels Central Catholic

School Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 16, 2023

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Board met on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 6:30pm in the parish rectory.

Leanne Ritter called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll Call was taken. Board members present included: Matt Ridder, Leanne Ritter, Ryan Steffensmeier, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Mark Wooldrik, Dan Woodbury and Jeff Timmerman.

Board members not present: Tom Hagedorn and Ben & Michelle Borgmann

School Administration present: Justin Wardyn, Paula Peatrowsky and Fr. Weeder.

School Organization Representative Present: None

School Organization Representative not present: Shea Stokely (Booster Club President), Nikki Schmader (SPA)

Leanne asked all present to review June minutes. Carmen made the motion to approve the minutes. Dan seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Booster Club: Justin was at last meeting and mentioned the Steak Feed on Friday the 18th of August. It was brought up they are looking for someone to take over the ordering for the concession stands for the 2024-2025 year. They are still in need of some adults to help with gates. There was also some confusion as to the availability to the parents to use the activity center. Justin, Fr. Weeder and Josh met to talk about a plan about the best way to give access, but have it still be controlled. Paula indicated the letter for the line item for Booster club/Activity fee went out and the money is starting to come in. There is discussion to have the Booster club collect the money next year. Some parents are wanting to have it attached to their tuition. Tuition and Booster club are completely separate accounts. A few parents expressed concern having 3rd-6th grade has to pay the fee. They (the students) use the gym for PE but it is a part of the curriculum and should be included in the tuition. This is the only concern that came up. It was brought up there are youth sports using the gym, but there is no 'gate charge' to help offset the cost. Fr. Weeder also mentioned the old gym is covered under the parish and the new gym is covered under the Booster club.

SPA: nothing to report, they would be meeting later this week.

Facilities: Matt mentioned there is a meeting August 30th with the engineering firm and expects to receive recommendations. Fr. Weeder said one of the tubes in the GA boiler has a hole in it that happened last winter. All the boilers had an internal inspection. Mike has a quote to replace 1 (because of its location, 4 would have to be removed) would be \$3,500 or replace all of them \$15,000. Fr. Weeder offered this report to Morrissey Engineering to incorporate it into their report.

Finance: Ryan shared the fiscal reports for both schools. Ryan mentioned the \$8,166 budgeted shortfall for the elementary school. St. Mary's fills in this gap. Central Catholic shortfall is same as last month \$190k. Justin is looking into the lay teacher salary line item as it is slightly different. A revenue line will be added at the top that will be for anticipated extra funds thru capital campaign and/or endowment so in September there will be a balanced budget to pass. Tracy made the motion to approve the finance reports.

Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Governance: Ongoing discussions with the template that was provided to us from Bergan and Scotus. This is very straight forward in the fact that not many changes can be made since the Archdiocese has already approved theirs. There are still questions as to what the Archdiocese is requiring of us. The goal is to have a draft to the school board in the near future. Matt asked if it would be possible to share Bergan's and Scotus' with the board. Leanne said she could email it to board members.

Teacher Excellence: Tracy shared that Paula provided what we currently do to recruit and retain our teachers. We then looked at what we could do to enhance what is already in place. One suggestion was having the high school student put together a marketing video to be used at recruiting fairs. To our knowledge, no one is using one now, so it could attract to our booth. Also suggested looking into discounted housing for apartments since there is not much we can do about increasing teacher pay. Through Stalp foundation, have some tuition payback. Suggested doing more than a 1-year contract for some of the teachers who have been here for some time. Concern over the verbiage in the contract. Leanne brought up that at the Round Table discussion they are trying to approve or they have set aside money (\$5,000) to pay back new teachers for tuition. Fr. Weeder thought it may have been specific to Special Education teachers. Justin stated the Loan Forgiveness bill went thru but it wasn't all spent. Everyone could get some money back. There was still some confusion as to exact amounts and who it is for. Paula mentioned there are hiring bonuses at larger schools and some schools hire mid-year, for December graduates. It was suggested to reach out to Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong as she may have a better understanding of the Omaha Scholarship Fund.

Communications: Fr. Weeder suggested adding someone else to the committee since Ben & Michelle are not always able to make it. There was some hesitation because this committee has not been defined. Fr. Weeder indicated that communication has not been our strong point; getting information from the school to our parents. Dan expressed some interest in the committee. The digital news letter will continue this year. We need to let Theresa and Tami know what information needs to be in the newsletter. Come up with ideas on how to get the word out to the families.

School President Report: Fr. Weeder mentioned it has been brought to his attention about lunch staff wages; would they be the same as the teacher aides. Currently at a \$12/base (Public School is \$14.75 base). They are on the same table as the teacher's aide. Follows the same scale. Matt felt they should be on the same scale because they do not get the benefits since they are not full time. Fr. Weeder pointed out the lunch program is separate from the school budget. Leanne mentioned there is a surplus in that budget too due to COVID. Matt made the motion to increase the base to \$15/hour.

Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business: Justin said John McAndrews started to update the handbook but it was not finished. The printed copy is not the same as the copy on the website. He will be starting committees to get it updated and have something to the board by Jan/Feb 2024 for approval. Paula mentioned that school

safety drills will start soon. Student assembly and behavior expectations. This will be discussed first day of school. Fr. Weeder mentioned the new fire alarm system and telephone system has been installed.

Leanne introduced Kevin Thiele. Kevin has some concerns regarding Athletics and 4H/Ag. He is asking for a positive approach when fall sports conflict with 4H and FAA. Students are having to choose between practice and 4H. When students have to choose, they are choosing 4H. Coaches have tried to work around show schedules, but it did not work well. When students have to choose it is considered an unexcused absence for the sport. This has resulted in extra conditioning for the student and at times for the team. He is suggesting that missing a practice for a competition should be an excused absence. Justin mentioned that athletes have to have so many numbers of days of practice before they can participate, specifically for football. Justin is going to speak with the coaches and Josh. Matt brought up the point that coaches may still have to choose who will play more because one athlete made all practices versus a student who is participating in other events.

Back to school meeting it seemed did not have good attendance of parents. It was suggested putting school/gym cleaning and back to school meeting in one night and have food for the families.

If we are able to hire a custodian we may not have to do the school/gym cleaning. Some staff members have offered to clean parts of the school; bathrooms, offices, work room. For an hourly rate of \$15/hr.

Fr. Weeder asked for clarification on the 3-6th grade practicing on Wednesday from 6-8. Leanne said the board was fine with it pending his approval.

Next meeting is September 20, 2024

Fr. Weeder closed the meeting with a prayer.

Ryan made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Schwer