



Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026
Administration Office

Members Present: Jennifer Rose Bass, Jacki Kelly, Brent Olson, Jessica Felix, Fr. Randy Schon, Dan Kriener, Fr. Brad Pelzel, Joe Malsam, Ben Uhl

Via Phone Conference: Fr. Tim Friedrichsen

Absent Members: Fr. David Esquiliano, Rhonda Bridges

Staff Members: John Flanery, DJ Faller, Marisa O'Connell, Chris Bork, High School Principal

Guests: Jennifer Elliott, Dr. Dan Elliott

Topic: Parent concern about Middle School recess time

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brad Pelzel
2. Approval of December 11, 2025 Board Meeting minutes
 - Amend date on Catholic Schools Week to January 25-31
 - Approval of December 11, 2025 Board Meeting minutes
 - Motion by: Dan Kriener
 - Seconded by: Joe Malsam
 - All in Favor: Aye

Guests: Jennifer and Dr. Dan Elliott – Recess Time

- Recess time is being referred to as “Fresh Air” time (Middle School)
- Each school treats recess time differently
 - Example: Sacred Heart 10 minutes 3 times a week
 - Is recess time being used as a punishment for poor behavior?
 - Academic scores matter, health matters and recess is a mental reset for students
 - Elementary school handled differently than Middle school – is this based on state requirements for middle school (same minutes in the day for all students)
 - Middle schoolers need this time, build healthy habits,
 - Parents are asking for guarantee 20-minute daily recess time
 - Does this mean that schools need to have extended daily hours to accommodate longer recess times?
- Is it a board vs school issue?
- Board members felt this should be pushed back onto the principals of the buildings
- Board needs more data to come to a better consensus

Guest: Chris Bork, High School Principal, See Attached Handout

- Faith
 - 3 full-time campus ministers, 1 chaplain (time based on availability)
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration, and Mass every week

- 4 students going to March for Life in DC
- 67 graduates earned Silver Cord by amassing 60 hours of Community Service
- Academics
 - Graduating class received 16.5 million dollars in academic scholarships
 - 92% of Graduates indicate will go to college; 73% will enroll in 4-year institution
 - ISASP Testing Proficiencies
 - Testing results show significantly higher numbers than % of proficient student in the State of Iowa
- Activities
 - Currently #1 in Girls Basketball
 - Band earned Division 1 ratings in concert, jazz and marching competitions
 - 16 vocalists chosen as All-State
 - 2 Instrumentalist chosen as All State and 2 more as alternates
- Challenges/Opportunities
 - Hiring certified staff to capably fill teaching positions
 - Capacity to support students academically with ever changing post high school interests in a diverse student body (plumbing, electric etc.)
 - Moving to an 8-period day in anticipation of rising enrollment – projected 603 in 4 years
 - Substance abuse and accessibility among students

3. Committee Reports

- Academics – Joe Malsam
 - Next meeting - February 11, 2026
- Catholic Identity – Jacki Kelly
 - Meeting week ending January 30, 2026
- Enrollment and Marketing – Jennifer Rose Bass - see attached
 - Crusader Connection to be mailed
 - Reviewed By-laws
 - Virtual Campus Tours – less than 2 minutes for all buildings, more photos and intro video from principals
- Finance – DJ Faller, Brent Olson and John Flanery – see attached
 - Tuition receivables – Infinite Campus and Blackbaud reports attached
 - Blackbaud Monthly Receivables - \$277,499.63
 - Parish Receivables – see attached
 - Audit Report
 - Auditors had some follow up questions
 - We should have a draft of the audit by end of January
 - “Tuition Payment Policy Review”
 - Discussed tuition policy section that covers withdrawing financial aid assistance if account is turned over to collections
 - Create a clearer letter to parents regarding financial responsibilities if goes to collections
 - Will have legal review letter template
 - Discussed number of employee hours invested into trying to collect tuition funds before going to collections
 - Motion to leave policy as is and create a letter that better outlines financial responsibilities
 - Motion: Jennifer Rose Bass
 - Seconded: Dan Kriener
 - All in favor: Aye
 - Motion to leave “Withdraw Policy” as is
 - Motion: Jennifer Rose Bass
 - Seconded: Jessica Felix

- All in favor: Aye
- Leadership & Governance – Ben Uhl
 - Due to time restrictions, Ben has requested to step down as chair
 - Need to replace Ben Uhl's role as committee chair
 - Jessica Felix will replace Ben Uhl as chair
 - Ben Uhl will remain on as a committee member
- Committee membership – committee chairs, please provide an updated list of names and contact information to John by January 30, 2026

5:40 p.m.

4. President's Report

- Advancement – 2025-2026 – see documentation
 - Spirit of Heelan
 - Goal - \$210,000
 - Actual - \$162,498
 - MLTF final numbers
 - \$220,396.58 allocated
 - Lower than last year by \$39,000
 - Auction update – Friday, April 10. Board is strongly encouraged to attend and will be recognized
 - Auction theme – “Heelan Fiesta of Faith, Family and Friends”
- Update regarding campus fencing and Memorial Field lights
 - Approved by Diocese of Sioux City
 - Diocese Arts and Environment Committee will need to approve the fencing
- Legacy Campaign ends on 12/31/26
 - Request to convene an ad hoc committee to start the next strategic plan – see attached strategic goals
 - Committee membership
 - Motion for John to create AD Hoc think tank for next strategic project or next capital campaign
 - Motion: Ben Uhl
 - Seconded: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - All in Favor: Aye
 - Email John Flanery if interested in being a member (need a board member)
- “St. Michael's South Sioux City – tuition – see attachment
 - Motion to leave tuition parameters same as Nebraska and South Dakota
 - Motion: Ben Uhl
 - Seconded: Jessica Felix
 - All in Favor: Aye
- Catholic Schools Week, January 25-31, 2026
 - All school Mass – January 27th at 9:45 am
 - Having students “thank you for your support” at masses to families
 - Thank you to parish communities (plural)
- 2026-2027 School Academic Calendar
 - Motion to approve 2026-2027 School Academic Calendar
 - Motion: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - Seconded: Dan Kriener
 - All in Favor: Aye

6:15 p.m.

- Other business
 - Guests should submit a written statement of concerns in advance for Board of Education to review
 - Board of Education may ask guests clarifying questions

- John will research with Principals what the barrier might be to not provide 20 minutes of recess. John will bring information to February Board of Education meeting.
- Marian Hall
 - Do we plan to lease for another year or purchase?
 - Currently 6-7 units are occupied
- Board opening
 - Jacki emailed committee chairs for their nominations for Board Member replacements
 - Ben Uhl's recommendation – Julie Lohr
 - Jacki Kelly's recommendation – Jenipher Hernandez

6:20 p.m. Motion to table vote on At Large and Parish Board of Education members

- Motion: Fr. Randy Schon
- Seconded: Ben Uhl
- All in Favor: Aye
- Move to Adjourn 6:58 p.m.
 - Motion by: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - Seconded by: Fr. Randy Schon
 - All in Favor: Aye

Next meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.