Seton Catholic Schools Commission Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 29, 2026

Attendance:

Amy Meyers, Tony Talbert, Kelly Knapke, Amy Hayes Claire Moriarity, Jared Clarke, Matt Westjohn, Paul Hutcherson, Steve Helmich, & Brad VanVleet

Absent:

Joe Schroeder and Jim Hunter

Opening:

Amy Meyers covered our mission and vision statements while also reminding the commission our goals. Members signed the Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Statements for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Approval of Previous Minutes:

A motion to approve the previous minutes was made by Kelly Knapke and seconded by Brad VanVleet. The motion was carried.

Governance:

- There was discussion of making our meeting notes public to make our commission meetings more transparent to Seton families and parishioners
- Emily Murray is making the School Commission members more known by utilizing our individual bios online and creating a 'Get to Know' section
- Jared Clarke to help Tim Elstro to make the minutes available
- All Commission Members have been added to the distribution list for school daily announcements

Finance:

- **We are under budget:**
    - High school tuition is down, our annual plan is also down
    - No retention bonus for staff
    - Health insurance prices went up
    - Salaries are down
- Operational expenses are down from the chiller
- Next year: enrollment is down by 40% for the High School

- Our focus has to be rebuilding the school culture
- Upcoming expense of the Intermediate building's roof is covered by the capital campaign
- $40k subsidy has come from the parish to the school
- $200k was donated to the school

Enrollment:

- New Student Updates:
    - 4 more sophomores have joined Seton and are brand new to our school system
    - 1 new freshman – also new to Seton
    - 1 student who enrolled into a different school switched back to Seton mid-summer
- School Choice Updates:
    - There may be some push-back on the legislative side, but right now, the universal income is now in effect
    - We can't directly say in marketing that Seton is free, but we can be creative. Recommended to compare the price of Catholic School Tuition to Indianapolis schools might be a path. Also, utilize the Bulletin to explain what School Choice is.
    - There is a need to be more selective about who comes to Seton to combat behavioral issues and academic issues ahead of enrollment
- Cardinal Points was passed out to Amigos
- Jim Hunter will be the new Enrollment Chair

Marketing:

- Committee includes: Emily Murray, Emily Tremain, Kelly Van Vleet, Brad Van Vleet, Trinity Parker, Trent Reichley, and Andy Floyd
- Alumni Campaign is still in the works with the idea of a post every few weeks
- Sending the video to new parents as an introduction and adding the link to email signatures
- Seton 5k is on 8/22 and a new email was sent out as a reminder

Alumni:

- Stephanie Hornak made a Google Sheets Database
- Homecoming weekend is the goal for this year's event
- There will be a booth at the back of Mass on 8/16

- Grant Writing will be led by Matt Westjohn. He will be connecting with Ray Ontko and Tina Cook to help kickstart his understanding
- Committee formations should be completed by our August meeting on 8/26

Principal Reports:

- Victor Berger has filled all positions and is currently waiting for approval from the archdiocese
- We are trying a central Cafeteria model this year and the logistics are still being worked out
- The school will have 3 part-time music teachers for the choir and band
- There is a new 5th grade teacher who is eager to begin working at the school
- Back to School night is being held on 8/18 for the High School and Primary Buildings and the Intermediate is 8/19
    - At the elementary school, each teacher will be having discussions with parents and kids about their expectations for the school year for classroom management
    - Victor will be talking to parents to go over the protocols of Seton
- Seniors painted their parking spots and it was a fun event to kickoff their school year

Other Items:

- Next meeting will be the training through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to go over the Commission's role within the school
- We will be rotating schools this year for our meetings

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.