

Holy Family Catholic Schools
School Board Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
Schrup Family Board Room

Members Present: Dan Walsh, John Callahan, Isabelle Pattarozzi, Annie Murphy, Maggie Kramer, Rennie Root, Mike Dodds, Fr. Steve Rosonke, and Jeff Weber

Members Absent: Fr. Dennis Quint and Kevin Mullen

Staff Present: Phil Bormann and Lisa Krapfl

The meeting began with prayer at 5:30 p.m.

Academics Update

Lisa Krapfl, Director of Curriculum and Innovation, was present to share an academic update with the board. Data was shared with the board electronically for review. Lisa highlighted the following:

- Holy Family's Advanced and Proficient percentages on the ISASP were on average 23 percent higher than the state of Iowa.
- FAST testing flags students that need extra support (K-8). The goal is to be at 85 percent or higher. The system's ELA average is 76 percent and Math average is 80 percent.
- The Class of 2024 ACT's composite was 22.1, which was 1.3 points higher than 2023. 75 percent of students took the exam, 17 percent fewer than 2024.
- 236 AP exams were administered in the Spring of 2024, 164 of those exams scored a 3 or above (69 percent).
- During the Fall 2024 Semester and J-Term 2025, a total of 412 college courses were taken, totaling 1,236 college credits earned.
- In the Spring of 2024, students, parents and staff were surveyed about Leadership, Culture and Academics at Holy Family. All schools increased scores in Leadership, Culture and Academics.
- All students in K-8 now take the Las Links Assessment, results show medium to high scores at all levels, but decrease from 5th to 8th grade.

Lisa also presented updates on student academics and staff development beyond data:

- Staff Development: Teachers are coming together on their own for faculty book reads. Professional development has an increased focus on faith formation, including guest speaker, Anthony Digman, speaking about the Eucharist.
- Technology: Implemented a 6-12 no phone policy

- Gleaner: Students turned the newspaper into a magazine, including copies to share the work students have researched and reported on.
- Strategic Plan: Goal is to exceed the Archdiocese of Dubuque's rubric on academics.
- AEA Services: The funding changes and Holy Family has received many services including support teachers, PD training, counselors, computer sciences, etc.
- Immersion Date: Continuing to work to improve the program, a group of staff members attended a conference with other immersion schools and a new curriculum was implemented K-6.
- Curriculum Updates: Literacy for grades K-3 at St. Columbkille and Resurrection; Spanish for grades 6-12; Science for grades 4 & 5; and History for grades 4, 8, & 11.
- New Pathways Beyond the Nest: Booklet for students and parents with all the college classes offered based on subject interest. Lisa would like to continue to get a course schedule laid out for students interested in certain areas beyond high school.
- Motivating Students: Continuing to engage students beyond the typical classroom setting and allow the students to feel like the work has worth and meaning behind it.
- Clearinghouse Data: The statistics class will come to another board meeting to present this data.

Phil expressed his gratitude for Lisa's work ethic, determination, and vision for student success in her position. The board thanked Lisa for all her work.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 19, 2024 School Board meeting were included in the packet for review.

- **Mike Dodds moved to approve the December 19, 2024 School Board meeting minutes as presented. Isabelle Pattarozzi seconded. The motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

Committee minutes and reports from system administrators were included in the packet for review.

- **John Callahan moved to accept the committee minutes as presented. Annie Murphy seconded. The motion carried.**

Chief Administrator Update

Fr. Jeff Frieden is working to expand his presence throughout the school. Engage360 data was shared regarding Catholic Identity and Advent preparation, staff feels we are in a good spot and continuing to push the Catholic Identity forward.

Recruitment for the 2025-2026 school year is looking strong. Kindergarten and transitional Kindergarten is positive. There will be an enrollment impact at the middle school level and

would like to expand 6th grade to six sections. Three new Wahlert Catholic students were just accepted for the second semester of 2024-2025.

The bids for an architect went out and have been received for the Central Campus Track & Field project and the Central Campus Expansion project. The Facilities Committee met to review these and make a recommendation to the board.

The lights in the Theisens gymnasium have been replaced which made an incredible difference to the functionality of the space, and overall quality. “Leave it Free, Think of Me” signs have been placed in the Handicap spaces on central campus.

The 2025-2026 certified staff hiring season will be upon us shortly. As resignations and retirements come through, they will be included in the board packet and positions will be posted. Patti Steines announced her retirement and Phil expressed his gratitude for her years of service.

Dan Walsh inquired about Phil’s perspective on the upcoming hiring season in light of the new teacher pay package. Phil expressed that he expects it to be a good hiring season overall, though there may be some slight movement that could present challenges. However, he noted that the improved teacher pay will be a valuable benefit.

Candidate Recommendation

A candidate recommendation was given to the board for Patricia Herrera. Phil shared that Patricia is in the process of applying for her visa’s/certifications and would teach part-time at Wahlert for the remainder of the 2024-2025 academic year and help move our Spanish and Theology department forward.

- **Jeff Weber moved to approve the hiring of Patricia Herrera, pending her visa approval. Mike Dodds seconded. The motion carried.**

Notification of Reductions

In compliance with Archdiocesan policy #4111.22 regarding reduction of contracted staff, the Holy Family School Board requested that Holy Family administration conduct a review of staffing needs for the 2025-2026 school year. If necessary, as per policy, staff reduction recommendations must be made no later than the regular March board meeting.

Phil noted a potential shift in music department staffing for grades 6-12.

- **Mike Dodds moved to approve the request that Holy Family administration conduct a review of staffing needs for the 2025-2026 school year. Annie Murphy seconded. The motion carried.**

Request for Proposals

Two separate Requests for Proposals were sent out. One for the Central Campus Track & Field and the Central Campus expansion, including an auditorium, classroom addition, and a remodel of indoor office and athletic space. The proposals were sent out to four firms, two firms were able to meet the timelines and submit a bid. The Facilities Committee met to review these proposals. Jeff Weber and Mike Dodds, members of the Facilities Committee, summarized the committee's recommendation of hiring Origin Design as the architect for both projects.

The board reviewed the project proposals and costs, as well as funding sources.

- **Jeff Weber motioned to approve the hiring of Origin Design as the architect for both Central Campus projects. Rennie Root seconded. The motion carried.**