



# MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

1316 BEL AIR BLVD., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • TEL 715.723.0538 • FAX 715.723.1501 • WWW.MACS.K12.WI.US

**Our Mission:** Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.

**Our Vision:** MACS will be a beacon of faith, hope, and love by inspiring each student to embrace his or her identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, while discovering and developing their unique gifts. We will immerse students and families in an authentic Catholic culture which fosters love of truth, beauty, and goodness. We will challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and intellectual inquiry. We will prepare McDonell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

Education Commission Minutes  
**Thursday, December 19, 2024, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**McDonell Library/Media Center**

## AGENDA

## LEAD

## NOTES

AGENDA	LEAD		NOTES
<b>Welcome and Call to Order (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome</li><li>• Prayer</li></ul>	Chad Priest	5:00	Fr. Burish led prayer
<b>Evidence of Mission/Vision (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Mission and Vision</li></ul>	Chad	5:05	Chad read the mission statement
<b>CONSENT AGENDA (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">November minutes</a></li><li>• Finance and Facilities Report</li><li>• Technology Report</li><li>• Advancement Report</li><li>• Long-Range Planning Report</li><li>• Enrollment Report</li><li>• Student Services Report</li><li>• Principals' Reports</li><li>• Dean of Academics Report</li></ul>	Chad	5:10	OK, no questions
<b>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives (15 Minutes)</b>		5:15	Holy Ghost reopening this Sunday 10:30 a.m. Bishop's Mass followed by reception, all are welcome

<p><b>Guest Presentation (15 Minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music/Fine Arts reports</li> <li>• Athletics report</li> </ul>	<p>Annette Hunt/Dcn. Sean Hanson</p> <p>Bryce Meverden /Greg Misfeldt</p>	<p>5:30</p>	<p>Arts/Music (Annette and Sean):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shared benefits of arts education and success of recent concerts</li> <li>• explained choir curriculum learning attainments for middle and high school</li> <li>• incorporate a variety of genres including sacred music</li> <li>• slideshow of band program highlights (solo &amp; ensemble, Dorian festival)</li> </ul> <p>Athletics (Bryce and Greg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shared fall sports highlights</li> <li>• volleyball and boys cc will move back a division next year (competitive balance rules)</li> <li>• football moving to 11-man update</li> <li>• Participation numbers: 153 at McDonell (74%) and 139 grades 5-8</li> <li>• HS offers 20 sports and 15 clubs, MS offers 9 sports</li> <li>• fundraising continues to be important to support programs with potential unexpected costs for football and wrestling uniforms</li> <li>• Positive feedback from service work at Packers games which is now a major source of funds for sports programs</li> <li>• MABC also supports senior trip costs by providing opportunities to work concessions to students and families</li> </ul> <p>Commission thanks our guests for their work and information presented. Encouraged to continue supporting students' holistic development in both arts and athletics.</p>
<p><b>Commission Chair (5 Minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening Session follow-up</li> </ul>	<p>Chad</p>	<p>5:45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioners who attended thought the format was good, the event was well publicized and it was nice for parents to be able to submit questions in advance</li> <li>• Some main issues identified were dress code, behavior, and cell phones</li> <li>• School is working on reflective practice to education in partnership with parents on these issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ clothing closet will be opened at MS/HS in January</li> <li>○ mentor program is in the works and will be piloted at MS/HS starting in trimester 3</li> <li>○ school is considering Love and Logic training for teachers and resources for parents (classroom/behavior management) which aligns well with our virtues-based approach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>President's Updates (20 Minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">2025-26 School Calendar</a></li> <li>● Teacher salary scale (Scott)</li> <li>● New admin assistant</li> <li>● Enrollment opening to current families Jan 2nd</li> <li>● <a href="#">Organizational Effectiveness Project</a></li> <li>● Property update</li> </ul>	Molly	5:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consensus approval of calendar</li> <li>● Consensus approval of salary scale</li> <li>● Shared information on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ new admin assistant Candace Konop, will be Scrip Coordinator and involved in Safe Environment</li> <li>○ Mary Beth Pfeifer is leading enrollment coordination, rolling enrollment periods give current families and parish families priority over public</li> <li>○ St. Joseph's property is under purchase contract with details being worked out, subject to approvals and contingencies</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Parish visits - please sign up, Chad is lead</a> to finalize signups and communicate with pastors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>NEXT Education Commission Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Faith/Campus Ministry Updates</li> <li>● Enrollment Updates will be tabled until February</li> </ul>	Chad	6:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thursday, January 16, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ will need someone to take minutes</li> <li>○ Chair will prepare and send agenda</li> <li>○ Molly will be on medical leave</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Closing Prayer and Adjourn</p> <p>Note City Penance Service tonight 7 p.m. at Notre Dame</p>	Priest	6:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chad</li> </ul>

### Membership

X	Chad Brady	Construction Consultant  Executive Committee LRP Committee Finance/Facilities Committee	Chair Holy Ghost Rep Term 2.1
X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer  Executive Committee Strategic Plan Steering Committee	Vice-Chair St John's Rep <b>Term 2.3</b>
X	TJ Proue	Attorney von Briesen & Roper S.C.	St Charles Rep Term 3.2

		Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	
XV	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance Committee Assignment - Open	All Saints Rep Term 2.1
XV	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking	Holy Cross Rep Term 2.1
EX	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees) Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep Term 2.3
EX	Bill Eddy	HVAC Project Manager Committee Assignment - Finance/Facilities	Notre Dame Rep Term 1.1
EX	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid UWEC Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep Term 3.2
	<b>OPEN</b>		Sacred Heart Rep Term
XV	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep Term 2.2
XV	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep Term 3.1
	<b>OPEN</b>		St Paul's Rep Term 1.3
X	Diane Herron	Homemaker Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep Term 1.3
	Tony Willkom	Committee Assignment TBD	At-Large Rep Term 1.1
	<b>OPEN</b>		At-Large Rep Term
X	<b>Annette Hunt Sean Hanson Bryce Meverden Greg Misfeldt</b>	Choir Director, Band Director, Athletics and Activities Director, McDonell Athletics Booster Club President	Guests - excused after presentations

**Ex-Officio**

XV	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
XV	Fr Alex Kren	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Chaplain
X	Molly Bushman	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	President
X	Mary Huffcutt	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Dean of Academics
XV	Eric Wedemeyer	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal ND/McD 6-12
XV	Gwen Doyle	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Holy Ghost 3-5
EX	Jamie Dodge	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	St Charles 3K-2
X	Scott Sokup	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Controller

### **Student Representatives**

EX	Ben Siegenthaler	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
EX	Lilian McDonald	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

### **Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup**

### **Director of IT Josh McCormick**

- Formed an SIS committee and had the first meeting to evaluate and make a recommendation on our SIS moving forward.
- There have been issues with our voicemail system, currently troubleshooting the issue.
- Streaming events this month include Christmas concerts at Holy Ghost, St. Charles, and McDonell.
- Welcomed a new member to the ND xStream team, and had a training session with a few members
- Working on simplifying and documenting the process to stream sporting events in the Gym

### **Director of Advancement Amber Leibrandt**

- **A.B. McDonell Vision Fund:**
  - Annual Fund: Goal of \$300,000 update we are at 72.5% of goal at \$217,724.00 with 257 gifts from 174 donors. 7 new donors to the organization.
  - End of Year Giving results to date: 2 donors matched up to \$150,000 through December 31st. We are past the halfway mark with \$81,327 leaving \$68,763 left to raise.
  - 18% participation from Commission Members (2 of 11)
  - 25% participation from Ex-officio members (2 of 8)
  - What can the Commission do to support? Like, Engage, and Share SM posts, consider supporting the vision fund with any size gift especially since every dollar will be matched,

and encourage others to be engaged. It would be amazing to say that we have 100% support from our Education Commission.

- **Major Gifts/Capital Campaign Prep:**
  - We continue to cultivate feasibility study members and have a tentative timeline for the upcoming case study development.
- **Planned Giving:**
  - We are still on track to hard launch the new planned giving program in the Spring with letters confirming current McDonnell Hope of the Future Alliance declarations after Jan. 1st.
- **Events:**
  - **January 26th:** MACS Spaghetti Spectacular and Kids Carnival will kick off Catholic Schools Week! Raffle Baskets are on the website and pre-sales have started. Continue to look for, share, and comment on the social media posts. Both committees are very excited for this event.
  - **March 29th:** MACS Spring Spectacular offers a new opportunity to join the community and have a fun evening out. Featuring a TBA Entertainer (rumor has it that we might have a comedian), plated meal by the same catering company that serves Country & Rock Fest VIP & Corporate, silent auctions, a fund-a-need, and more. The Fund-a-Need focus will be an auditorium revamp. We will have more of a formal presentation by the February meeting.
- **Grants:**
  - The United Way, The Kohl Foundation, Rotary Club, 3Q Annmarie Foundation, and Community Foundation grants are still pending. 4 Teachers received the \$350 each Northwestern Bank Mini Grants.
- **Operations & Administration:**
  - Mid Year Review will be scheduled with Molly and Scott in early January. Results will be included in the January Commission Report from Advancement.
  - December 20th the High School and Middle School music departments will receive a 1955 Baldwin Baby Grand Piano as a donation from an alumna whose mother was a child prodigy and later taught music education.
- 2025 Events Calendar (See attached PDF)- one of the recommendations from the Fundraising Policy Steering Committee.

## Enrollment Coordinator

Number of students per grade per category	Male						Female						Total By Grade
	Catholic Non-Choice, Non-SNSP	Non-Catholic Non-Choice, Non-SNSP	Catholic Choice	Non-Catholic Choice	Catholic SNSP	Non-Catholic SNSP	Catholic Non-Choice, Non-SNSP	Non-Catholic Non-Choice, Non-SNSP	Catholic Choice	Non-Catholic Choice	Catholic SNSP	Non-Catholic SNSP	
PreK3 (3 years to 4 years old as of 9/1/24)	5						7						12
Private PreK4 (4 years or older as of 9/1/24)	9	1	0	2	1	0	4	1	1	3	1	0	23
5K Kindergarten	10	1	3	0	3	1	12	2	5	1	0	0	38
First Grade	8	0	4	2	3	1	11	4	2	5	1	0	41
Second Grade	9	3	5	1	4	0	13	0	4	2	0	0	41
Third Grade	3	1	3	1	3	1	13	0	4	1	0	0	30
Fourth Grade	7	1	5	1	2	1	11	1	4	0	1	0	34
Fifth Grade	6	2	4	0	1	0	11	1	5	3	1	0	34
Sixth Grade	12	2	5	0	4	1	12	1	2	6	3	0	48
Seventh Grade	10	7	6	6	2	2	12	2	4	1	2	1	55
Eighth Grade	16	1	6	0	3	0	9	1	4	1	1	0	42
Subtotal PreK3-8	95	19	41	13	26	7	115	13	35	23	10	1	398
Ninth Grade	14	7	6	2	2	3	10	4	5	1	1	1	56
Tenth Grade	8	2	2	3	2	0	17	4	3	4	2	0	47
Eleventh Grade	14	2	14	2	0	1	14	6	1	0	3	0	57
Twelfth Grade	15	4	4	0	4	1	10	2	6	1	0	0	47
Subtotal 9-12	51	15	26	7	8	5	51	16	15	6	6	1	207
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>605</b>

Total enrollment 4K-12 as of Third Friday in September: 593. Third Friday in September Count from 23-24 was 587 so this represents a 1% net increase. Note we have had a few new enrollments after the count.

## **Long Range Planning - TJ Proue**

### **Principal Reports**

#### **St Charles Grades 3K-2 - Principal Mrs Jamie Dodge:**

##### **Recent Events:**

- The Ignite the Light program is going wonderfully, and the students are enjoying learning about science and God.
- We distributed our new style of report cards this past month, and the feedback from parents has been very positive. These report cards are more narrative and individualized, providing greater insights and feedback for parents.

##### **December has been a busy month for us:**

- Spirit Week: The Holy Spirit Spirit Week was a lot of fun, and the students seemed to really enjoy it.
- Mission Day: On December 2, our Mission Day was a huge success in support of the Spirit of Christmas in Chippewa County. We collected many toys and necessities to donate to families in need within our community.
- Earth Rangers: The Earth Rangers visited to teach our students about different animals and their habitats, as well as how we can help keep animals safe and our planet clean.
- Christmas Concerts: Our Christmas concerts were a major success! The students and staff worked very hard to prepare for these performances. A big thank you to Mrs. Beaufeaux, our Music and Art Teacher, for all the time and effort she dedicated to organizing this event.
- Guest Speaker: Father Tim from the Diocese came to speak with our students about Our Lady of Guadalupe. The students were very engaged, and Father Tim shared many interesting insights.

##### **Upcoming Events:**

- December 17: Hearing checks for 4K, Kindergarten, and new students will take place.
- December 18: Sierra Klein will be sharing her illustrated story, "Twas An Evening in Bethlehem."
- December 19: We will celebrate our December Paw Puzzle and come together as a community to see "The Grinch" (for 3K-K) and "Wild Robot" (for 1st-2nd) at Micon Theatres in Chippewa Falls.
- December 20: Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting our students. (Shhh... It's a secret!)
- January 3rd: 4K Busing will be running.
- January 9th: Ignite the Light

##### **We look forward to a wonderful month ahead!**

#### **Holy Ghost Grades 3-5 - Principal Mrs Gwen Doyle**

PLCs: The teachers have been working on clarifying math attainments and calibrating their grading. It is great to work together for the benefit of guiding our instruction and seeing specific, helpful feedback from assessments.

In December, we had many of the same events as St. Charles, but with a couple of additions:

- 1) Santa's Workshop: The HandS committee put together a great opportunity for students to shop for their families. They spent hours decorating the hallway and preparing the day to make a great Christmas experience. What a great way to encourage the virtue of generosity!

- 2) Christmas Program: Our Christmas Program was on Tuesday of this past week. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, it went smoothly! I am especially appreciative of the flexibility of the staff and the eagerness of the students to do their best.
- 3) The students will be visiting seven different long-term care facilities on Friday, December 20th for Community Day. The student council also planned a virtue review in addition to a badminton tournament, Kahoot and classroom parties.
- 4) Our staff is celebrating Christmas with St. Charles staff on Thursday, December 19th.

Upcoming in January:

- We will have benchmark testing and data talks to assess student growth and how to meet the needs of each and every student.
- I also look forward to coming up with a plan to follow up with our Operation Excellence survey staff follow-up meeting with Jill.
- We have two teachers who are going to each be out for a week or two in January and are looking for a long-term substitute to help.
- Mrs. Michelle Irwin-Gullo is going to continue as our 3rd/4th grade music teacher. We will do some projects and classes centered around Willy Wonka in January before moving on to recorders in February.

## **Notre Dame and McDonell Grades 6-12 - Principal Mr Eric Wedemeyer**

### **Advent emphasis in both schools**

During the Christmas season it seems easier and easier these days to overlook the true meaning of the season. All of the teachers in our schools have put forth much effort to emphasize to our students the true meaning of the Advent season. Our students were immersed with the concept of preparation during these past few weeks.

### **Advent musical performances**

Notre Dame held their annual Advent performances on Monday, Dec. 11. The performance consisted of four musical numbers by the 6th grade band and an additional four songs played by the 7th & 8th grade band. The 6th grade choir performed three songs while two more from the 7th & 8th choir. McDonell held their performances on Monday, Dec. 16. The show kicked off with the McDonell Jazz band performing three songs. They were followed by the McDonell Concert Choir. They also sang three songs. The program concluded with the McDonell Concert Band playing four numbers. A wonderful job by our students and also by our Band director Sean Hanson, our Choral teacher, Annette Hunt. Congratulations on composing great performances!

### **Giving Tree collections**

Each Friday during Advent, our students could wear sweats along with our normal Macks Spirit wear day. Students would need to pay \$3 dollars to be allowed to wear their sweats with all the money collected to go towards our annual Giving Tree. The money collected was given to selected families in need.

### **Clothing Closet - Coming soon**

A location has been chosen for the clothing closet for the middle and high school. The closet in Mrs. Jimenez' office will serve as an organizational space for collected clothing items that are dress code compliant. Students can access the closet at any time if they are out of dress code. Parents and families can donate items to the closet.

Donations can be dropped off in the main office. This option will be up and running when students are back in January.

**Peer Mentor Program**

A cross-age peer mentoring program is a model that MACS is working to develop in hopes to create positive outcomes for our students. The prospect of this plan falls under our Long Range Strategic plan under Nurturing our Students: goal 2.1 Continue to develop a quality faith-guided youth mentor program PreK-12. The goal of such a program in which older students befriend and mentor a younger student in a structured environment, would produce a number of positive outcomes for both sets of participants. Our plan is for our program to provide growth and learning opportunities for both mentors and mentees, resulting in a “double impact” that is appealing to our school in an attempt to support students with limited financial and community resources. We have selected 6 high school students as we are looking to start from the top down and will train them and get them started with their mentees by the end of January.

**Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt**

- Setting up professional development for math (new materials) for February. This is for grades K-5.
- Working with a small group of teachers to outline our history timeline as to what will be covered in K-12.
- Surveys have gone out to teachers to see what they have as needs for professional development come next year. One area that teachers have mentioned relates to classroom management. We are looking into possibilities that align with our mission.
- Having principals evaluate progress of our transformation of our direction of being a Catholic Liberal Arts school system.

**Student Support Services Coordinator Diane Hietpas**

- SNSP enrollment audit for 24-25 school year and for summer school will be completed this week

<b>Meeting Dates for 2024-25 Education Commission Meetings</b>	
August	Thursday, August 15
September	Thursday, September 19
October	Thursday, October 17 (Listening Session)
November	Tuesday, November 19 Joint CFAUSD (CFAUSD hosts this year)
December	Thursday, December 19
January	Thursday, January 16
February	Thursday, February 20
March	Thursday, March 20
April	Thursday April 10
May	Thursday, May 15 (Listening Session)
June	Schedule Only If Needed

July	Generally, No Meeting
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<b>Commission Presentations - Topic/Presenter/Meeting</b>			
<b>Club/Committee/Department</b>	<b>Chairperson or Dept. Head</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Topic of Presentation/Notes</b>
Mental Health	School Counselors	Sept	
Dress Code Update/Dialogue	Ad hoc committee chair/principals	Sept	
Listening Session	All	Oct.	Try to do fall survey in conjunction with the fall feedback survey
Safety Committee/EMEROPS	Safety Comm Chair	Oct.	
Advancement/Alumni	Amber Leibrandt and AA President	Nov	
Tuition and Salary Scale approval	Scott Sokup	Nov	
Music/Arts	Sean Hanson/Annette Hunt	Dec	
Athletics	Bryce Mederven and Greg Misfeldt	Dec	
Faith/Campus Ministry	Michael Van Hemert and Fr. Kren/CMC	Jan	
Enrollment/Admissions	Kathleen Adams and Molly Bushman	Jan	Also in monthly consent agenda
Technology	Josh McCormick	Feb	
Academics/Curriculum	Mary Huffcutt and Diane Hietpas	Mar	Tie in Nurturing our Students reports
Budget	Scott Sokup and Molly Bushman	April	New timeline with Diocese
Principal Reports - Assessments	Eric W, Gwen D, Jamie D	April	
Strat Plan Annual Update/Listening Session	Molly Bushman	May	
Long Range Planning	T.J. Proue and Fr Jesse Burish	As needed	