



# 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 Vision:** We are the school of choice for an excellent Catholic faith based education within the Chippewa Falls area. We welcome all families to be a part of our school community no matter their faith or financial means. In partnership with our parents, we form the whole child in support of our values and mission. Our vision of the whole child consists of a lifelong learner, who upon graduation, is academically prepared for post-secondary education and career, grounded in relationship with Jesus Christ, balanced physically and emotionally, and actively engages as servant leaders in family, parish, and civic communities.

**Our Mission:** Committed to the formation of community, academic excellence and the spiritual and physical well-being of each student in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Education Commission October Meeting - Summary

**October 21, 2021 – 5:00 PM**

[Join with Google Meet](#)

**Meeting ID**

[meet.google.com/czh-vgxs-sra](https://meet.google.com/czh-vgxs-sra)

**Phone Numbers**

**(US)+1 563 538 1633**

**PIN: 864 679 281##**

**McDonnell Library**

## AGENDA

## LEAD

## NOTES

AGENDA	LEAD	NOTES
System Listening Session	5:00-5:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No one in attendance from the public. Communication went out in the bulletin, through parent ambassadors and parent blasts through Infinite Campus.</li><li>• How is McDonell actively teaching an authentic Catholic environment?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○</li></ul></li><li>• How is the school moving towards classical ideology/pedagogy?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○</li></ul></li><li>• Is the transition to mandating uniforms?</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a dress code committee. Committee will be presenting an update later in this meeting.</li> <li>● Is there a discussion about getting rid of devices during the school day? Parent recommends to not allow devices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No students through grade 8 can have devices throughout the day</li> <li>○ Grades 9-12, students can use devices before school, after school, lunch and between classes</li> <li>○ Protect Young Eyes - suggested to bring back this presentation that we offered a few years ago</li> <li>○ All school devices in the school are monitored</li> <li>○ School uses gaggle - flags IT if there are any things that seem unsafe or inappropriate</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What is the vetting process for teachers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussing later in this meeting</li> <li>○ All background checked</li> <li>○ References checked</li> <li>○ All safe environment certified</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Why was my daughter called to the office and given a form to be filled out in regards to vaccination status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is MACS policy to never request vaccination status</li> <li>○ Was is possible that she is a new student and we were requesting her immunization record (student information form)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● How is the school addressing sexuality at all levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tom Reichenbacher will address later in the meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Welcome and Call to Order	TJ Molly	● Welcome from TJ and Molly

New Student Junior Commissioner	TJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome MACS junior representative Megan Hanson</li> <li>● Daughter of Sean and Paula Hanson</li> <li>● Active in the school, parish and community</li> <li>● Very decorated musician</li> </ul>
<p>Prayer</p> <p><b>Welcome Diocese of La Crosse Superintendent of Catholic Schools Thomas Reichenbacher - remarks</b></p>	<p>Priest</p> <p>TJ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prayer led by Fr Burish</li> <li>● Hail Mary by all</li> <li>● Welcome Tom Reichenbacher</li> <li>● Superintendent six years for the Diocese of LaCrosse</li> <li>● Serves Bishop Callahan</li> <li>● Serves pastors and administrators</li> <li>● “Make the BIG things important and the rest will follow”</li> <li>● Listens to and partners with Bishop Callahan to offer the best Catholic schools. Our job is to educate students in the Catholic faith</li> <li>● The Diocese asks that we focus on the students relationship with God</li> <li>● Theology of the Body from the listening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diocesan perspective - conscious decision to invest time and money in TOB “Theology of the Body”</li> <li>○ Student perspective - since 2011 schools required to teach TOB at the middle school and high school level</li> <li>○ YOU - high school program for grades 9-12 (required)</li> <li>○ Parental letter with each chapter</li> <li>○ Faculty and staff - two annual in-services. The last three in-services have been focused on theology</li> <li>○ Embrace TOB, educate teachers with knowledge and resources and have understanding of our Catholic faith</li> <li>○ This is not sex-ed. It is understanding the dignity of the human person’s body and soul.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentation on October 29, 2021. Education Commission representatives are welcome. Contact Molly if interested</li> <li>○ Ruah Woods - independent book publisher K-8 instills theology of the body</li> <li>○ Suggestion to add updates in regards of Theology of the Body to the Education Commission</li> </ul>
<p>CONSENT AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minutes – emailed</li> <li>● Principals’ Reports</li> <li>● Dean of Academics Report</li> <li>● Student Support Services Report</li> <li>● Finance &amp; Facilities Committee Report</li> <li>● Long Range Planning Committee Report</li> <li>● Advancement Advisory Committee Report</li> <li>● Enrollment</li> </ul>	TJ/Molly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consensus for the agenda</li> </ul>
<p>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>	Reps as requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A “thank you” to MACS and parish from a MACS family</li> <li>● Our Lady of the Falls</li> <li>● Food Drive at the resource center</li> <li>● Looking for Adoration volunteers</li> <li>● Goldsmith Chapel</li> <li>● December 4 - Breakfast with santa fundraiser - McDonell Commons</li> <li>● Diaper Drive started 10/21/2021 - presentation from Foster Care and Pam Baughman</li> <li>● Support Our Troops - National Honor Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Looking for addresses of soldiers in the US or overseas</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Today is the last day of wreath sales for the senior class trip</li> <li>● Rose Sale for Rotary - proceeds go to the diaper drive</li> <li>● Playoff team for football Friday</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creating surveys for staff, students and parents</li> <li>○ Discussion of athletic uniforms</li> <li>○ Event dress codes such as prom and homecoming</li> <li>○ Is the committee open to having student representation on the dress code committee. Yes and students will have a voice in the surveys.</li> <li>○ Tie theology of the body to the dress code</li> </ul>
<b>President's Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>2021-22 System Goal Report</b></li> <li>● Enrollment Report</li> </ul>		<p>Kathleen reviewed enrollment See attached enrollment presentation</p> <p>Molly reviewed leadership goals See attached leadership goals presentation</p>
<b>Commission Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Guest: Tom Reichenbacher (above)</li> <li>● <a href="#">Commission 21-22 Goals</a> Approval</li> </ul>	TJ	<p>TJ reviewed Education Commission goals See attached Education Commission goals</p> <p>Education Commission goals have consensus</p> <p>Tracy Fischer has agreed to be on the tuition committee</p>
<b>Request for Future Agenda Items</b>	TJ	
<b>NEXT Education Commission Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Joint with CFAUSD - details TBD</li> <li>● Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed Tuition</li> <li>○ Presentations from Advancement/PR and Alumni Association</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	TJ/All  Scott/Teresa/ Tracy F.  Jaynee/Clare/ Rolly E.	<b>Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Dinner is served at 5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Hosted at McDonell in the library</b> Please be on time. It is important we start immediately since CFAUSD has to leave at 5:45 p.m.
Closing Prayer and Adjournment	All	<b>Glory Be Led by Fr Burish</b>

## Membership

PRESENT	Name	Expertise	Role
X	TJ Proue	Attorney Wiley Law S.C. Executive Committee Finance & Facilities Committee Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	Chair/ St Charles Rep 2nd Term
X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer Executive Committee	Vice Chair/St John's Rep 1st Term
X	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance Committee Assignment?	All Saints Rep 1st Term
EX	Tamara Bohaty		Holy Cross Rep 1st Term
Late	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees) Ad Hoc Catholic Education Event Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep 1st Term
EX	Tracy Fischer	Dir of Social Service/Neighbors of Dunn County Ad Hoc Tuition Committee	Holy Ghost Rep 2nd Term
X	Mike Crawford	Access Security Sales and Estimations Finance & Facilities Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
X	Matt Elstran	Hideaway Resort & Francesca Resource Center Parent Ambassadors	Notre Dame Rep 3rd Term
EX	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
	Vacant		Sacred Heart Rep
X	Tracy Bormann	Human Resource Professional Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep 2nd Term
X	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Regi Geissler	Registered Nurse HSHS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
	Vacant		St Paul's Rep
EX	Gina Smiskey	Homemaker Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee Parent Ambassador	St Peter's Rep 2nd Term

		Music Boosters Faith Boosters	
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**Ex-Officio**

X	Fr Jesse Burish	Notre Dame Church	Dean
EX	Fr Ethan Hokamp	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Chaplain
X	Molly Bushman	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	President
X	Mary Huffcutt	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Dean of Academics
X	Brian Schulner	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal ND & McD
X	Eric Wedemeyer	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal EC, SC & HG
X	Jerry Smith	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal EC, SC & HG
X	Scott Sokup	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Controller
X	Kathleen Adams	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Exec Admin Asst Enrollment Coordinator

**Student Representatives**

X	Paige Smiskey	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
X	Megan Hanson	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

**Guest**

X	Thomas Reichenbacher	Diocese of LaCrosse Office of Catholic Schools	Superintendent

## Consent Agenda Reports

### **McDonell Central/Notre Dame - Brian Schulner**

- It was a rather shaky start to the school year as Covid -19 reared its ugly head. The majority of positive cases we had were in the middle school primarily 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We have had spot cases in the high school, but less quarantines as many students are vaccinated or have had Covid recently. At the time of this writing we have one positive and two quarantines in the middle school and zero in the high school.
- The daily routine has been going alright. Some staff and students do wear masks and we are encouraging washing hands and trying to stay distanced. We are currently running two lunches in the middle school and three in the high school. We have had some challenges with quarantines, but it has been going much better when we took it back in our own hands instead of working through the health department.



- Homecoming week went very well. Mrs. Jorgensen and the student council did a fabulous job organizing theme days. The pep assembly was very well done and students stayed active and engaged throughout. Can't believe a student wouldn't take \$100 over hitting their Principal in the face with a pie. Guess I need to up it next year.
- We had parent/teacher conferences on Thursday October 14th for the entire school day. The middle school saw well over 90% turnout as they had student led conferences throughout the day. The high school saw a better turnout than we would with evening conferences, but it didn't reach the numbers I had hoped for.
- Our numbers of student are higher than past years. Middle school is at 118 and the high school is at 178. We added extra sections of classes in grade 9 this year and if the same happens again next year (which is more than possible) we will need to add staffing and find places for teachers to have class. Our science department is definitely on overload. It's a great problem to have, but we can only fit so many in without making adjustments.
- A senior class trip is being planned for late March 2022. We have three quotes from outside companies for the trip and will be finalizing soon. We have over 20 seniors that have showed interest. They are currently selling Christmas Wreaths and will be doing concessions as a fund raiser.

### **Early Childhood/St. Charles/Holy Ghost - Eric Wedemeyer and Jerry Smith**

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
An important event at the end of each first quarter are parent/teacher conferences. These meetings took place Tuesday, Oct 12 & Thursday, Oct. 14. St. Charles teachers offered an option for parents to attend face to face on Tuesday or participate virtually on Thursday evening. Holy Ghost completed theirs entirely through the virtual format.
- **School masses**  
An exciting thing to report is the return of music at our weekly school masses. Our students are also able to participate in readings, servers, gift bearers and choir. The increased participation has provided a better feel to our masses and increased enthusiasm from our students.
- **Return of classroom field trips**  
Another exciting return is the opportunity for our students to attend field trips this school year. So far our classes have traveled to local apple orchards, the Ice Age Trail, Irvine park and the public library. We have one more planned yet this fall before we take a break for the winter. We do have more planned for the springtime, highlighted by our 4th and 5th graders traveling to Madison to tour the State Capitol.
- **Homecoming week**  
In an effort to grow excitement for our entire school system during Homecoming week, the early childhood center and both K-5 buildings had a special dress themed day each day last week. On Friday, Oct. 15 our Kindergarten students traveled to McDonell High school to participate in some fun activities with our High School seniors.
- **Living Rosaries**  
On Wednesday, Oct. 13 marked the anniversary of the "Miracle of the Sun" which occurred on that date in Fatima, Portugal in 1917. In the spirit of the day and to pray for our fractured world both schools prayed a living rosary immediately following our school masses. The St. Charles group was led by Mrs. Shannon Jaeger and Holy Ghost was organized by Mrs. Kendra Rogers and led by our students.

### **Dean of Academics - Mary Huffcutt**

- Teachers will receive professional development from the University of Dallas on Oct 29th. Sessions include:
  - Poetry & recitation; socratic questions and discussions; grading and assessments; Catholic teacher transformation

- Finished and sent the WRISA annual accreditation report to the Diocese
- Supporting instruction

### **Student Support Services - Diane Hietpas**

- No update for October meeting.

### **Finance and Facilities - Scott Sokup**

- Summer Audit is complete and Auditors submitted the reports and financials to DPI.
- Fall Audit is November 2nd and 3rd
- Tuition Committee will be meeting in Early November to develop a tuition proposal for Finance and the Commission
- Finance will be reviewing the various Parish Investment formulas used in the Diocese and discussing at the October and November Finance Meetings.
- Will be purchasing a new tractor with snowblower and broom for the McDonell Campus for snow removal. Current equipment is at end of life.
- Will be forming a committee to investigate a remodel of the Auditorium. Plan to contact potential committee members in November.

### **Technology Report - Josh McCormick**

- Our order of 9 Promethean Interactive Panels have an updated ship date of 10/21. These boards are part of our plan to replace our aging fleet of smartboards and projectors that are showing major signs of wear, and are near their end of life. Our order will provide 3 Interactive Panels to each building.
- Our Switch upgrade project is 2/3rds completed. This is a big update to the backbone of our network. We are scheduled to complete the project on Sunday, November 7th. This upgrade will help improve our network speed, reliability and redundancy.
- We are currently analyzing solutions to replace our current Server. Our Server is fairly old, and is running out of resources to handle our network efficiently. We have obtained two quotes from different vendors and are still exploring options to best fit our needs.

### **Advancement - Jaynee Brannen**

- The Advancement Advisory committee has met twice since the reorganization of the committee and the shift from marketing to the broader scope of advancement. Components of a comprehensive advancement program include:
  1. Advancement operations
  2. Constituent relations
  3. Communications and brand management
  4. Volunteer management
  5. Strategic planning
  6. Prospect research
  7. Stewardship
  8. Enrollment management
  9. Special events
  10. Annual fund
  11. Major gifts
  12. Capital campaign
  13. Planned giving
- MACS, with the advancement advisory committee, has identified **stewardship** as the first committee priority. Volunteer management, strategic planning, planned giving, and the annual fund, have been identified as forecasted discussion topics.

- The committee also identified share-worthy assets that set MACS apart from other educational options in the Chippewa Valley; this includes increased enrollment (MACS remains steady even through uncertain times); investment in staff (Masters program); and high ACT scores.
- The committee will continue to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month in a hybrid format.