



Saints Peter & Paul School Board of Directors

September 9, 2025 6:00 PM

Meeting minutes

Started at 6:00 PM

Present: Principal Jenny Leik, Cara Brownell, Kevin Heinlein, Allen Wizorek, Nik Discher, Father Eugene, Samantha Crawford, Diane Grummet, Sharon VanEtt, Kari Dipzinki, Rachel Wilson

Special Guest: Superintendent Sarah Grey

Opening Prayer: Kevin Heinlein

Motion to approve May minutes: Motioned by Kevin Heinlein; Second by Rachel Wilson; Board approved.

Motion to approve September minutes: Motioned by Kevin Heinlein; Second by Diane Grummett; Board approved.

Motion to approve Agenda: Motioned by Cara Brownell; Second by Samantha Crawford; Board approved.

Communications: None

Public Comment: Discussion with the Superintendent

The meeting began with a discussion on the importance of the school board supporting the principal, emphasizing the need for unified leadership. The diocese expressed its commitment to fostering a working board and pledged ongoing support. Attendees were reminded about the upcoming summit, which serves as a valuable opportunity to review the website for updates and to exchange ideas on what strategies are effective and which ones need improvement. Jenny will be providing Kara with information from Sara, the Marketing Director at the diocese, to support communication efforts.

During the meeting, Kevin asked the superintendent about the long-term vision for Saint Peter and Paul. The superintendent shared her aspiration for the school to become a center of evangelization, with a focus on increasing student enrollment. She noted that insights from recent accreditation visits would inform a strategic plan for the next three to five years, particularly regarding building improvements, and requested the board's assistance in this effort. Financial concerns were raised, with Kevin highlighting that funding remains a persistent challenge. Suggestions included exploring grants and alternative funding sources.



The topic of the school's endowment was introduced, and Sara recommended reaching out to Teresa at the diocese to determine if any of those funds could be utilized. Additionally, Sara proposed engaging the alumni base for legacy gifts or direct financial support.

Nik inquired about teacher compensation, but it was noted that there is currently no designated funding to address this issue. Father Eugene concluded the discussion by underscoring the importance of increasing the school's visibility, stating that marketing efforts are crucial to achieving this goal.

Principals Report:

Enrollment: Enrollment for the 2025/2026 school year is at 99 total students. Our teacher to student ratio goal is 1:18 and we are currently at 1:14. We are down 31 students from the beginning of 2024/2025.

Staffing: Over the summer, Kyle Grummet and David Petersen joined Ionia Middle School. Petra Laux returned full-time to help combine 3rd and 4th grades after Molly Lang moved to 5th/6th. Overall, we are down two teachers from last year.

Angie Bush sees all preschool students in the morning, allowing her to support combined classrooms in the afternoon with individualized and remedial instruction.

Joann Johnson will work hourly with a flexible schedule due to her husband's health. Amie Heinlein is assisting in the office as needed, and we also have a volunteer helping in the library.

School Year Theme: This year's theme comes from a quote from Pope Francis.
"Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith."
The staff pray for the intention of our school each morning through the power of the Three Hail Marys.

Shared Time: We are partnered with Portland Public Schools for our shared time services. Portland is providing 70% of the pay for DK and Kindergarten and 100% of the pay for Physical Education, Technology and Music. We do not currently have a music instructor, but Portland Public school has posted for the position. I will share more, as more information becomes available.

Music for Thursday Mass: Father Eugene is working on securing a regular musician for Thursday Mass for the students.





Adoration: The staff and students of SSPP now have the opportunity to attend Adoration the first Thursday of every month, with the opportunity for confession as well.

Popcorn Fundraiser: Our annual Popcorn and Cookie Dough fundraiser kicked off on September 3rd. All orders and money are due to the school office by Friday, September 19th with a delivery date in October.



All School Field Trip: We are happy to be able to bring back the all school field trip this year. Everyone in Preschool through 8th grade has been invited to attend the field trip on September 19th to Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek. By combining everyone for a whole school field trip, we are able to secure a more discounted rate, as well as make it convenient for parents to take off one day, rather than multiple days, in order to attend with their student(s).

Breakfast and Free Lunch: SSPP students are currently receiving free breakfast and lunch through Ionia Public Schools, regardless of income level. The program for free lunches is scheduled to end on September 30th, depending on the State Budget. We will share what information we receive as it comes in. Breakfast will remain free for all students for the school year.

Title Funding: While we have not heard an official total, it sounds like SSPP will receive all of our Title funding for the school year! I am working with our contacts at the ISD to make sure that SSPP is receiving all of the funding we are allowed.

8th Grade Fundraiser: Due to the free lunches that we receive, 8th grade students have not been able to offer a weekly fundraiser during the school hours in a few years. The 8th graders will be completing one large fundraiser in October/November by selling RADA cutlery.





School Pictures: Geskus took school pictures on September 2 and will return for retakes on October 16. Danielle Jorae from Reflections Photography has again expressed interest in working with us for the 2026/2027 school year. Her pricing is comparable to Geskus, with higher quality, and she confirmed she can offer various background options.



Committee Chairs Reports:

A. Mission Effectiveness Chair: ***Diane Grummet/Sharon VanEtt*** - nothing new

B. Building and Grounds Chair: ***Nik Discher***

- Nik will be looking at doing the windows and UV and getting quotes for updated HVAC and door hardening.
- The main water line coming into the school is leaking and also needs to be repaired.

C. Planning and Policy Chair: ***Rachel Wilson*** - nothing new

D. DMFC (Development, Marketing, Fundraising, Communication) Chair: ***Cara Brownell*** - nothing new

E. Finance Chair: ***Kevin Heinlein*** - nothing new

Discussions Items:

- Review Mission Statement: Motioned to approve by Kevin Heinlein; Second by Diane Grummett; Board approved.
- Accreditation status - moved to next meeting
- Declining enrollment - reviewed attachment

Action Items:

- Board Code of Conduct - signed by all that were missing from the previous meeting.

Informational Items:

- School board summit dates:
 - Fall Summit - November 12th
 - Spring Summit - April 21st



Suggested Items for next meeting:

- Accreditation

Closing Prayer - Jenny Leik

Meeting was adjourned at **7:35 PM**.



The Mission of Saints Peter and Paul School is to provide a high quality Catholic education in a Catholic Christian environment. Through Word, example and service, students are taught a sense of responsibility for others and are encouraged to be actively involved in their faith and local community.

Our goal is to form future leaders, productive citizens and active faith-filled Christian men and women.