



NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 12, 2025

Board Meeting 5:32 pm, Nouvel Catholic Central Jr/High School Library

I. Call to Order – Opening Prayer Call to order at 5:32 pm, prayer by D. Decuf II.

Roll Call

- a. In Attendance: Jason Tunney, Dr. Liz Marshall, Brian Buckingham, Dr. Blair White, Dr. Cormac Lynn, Phil Sturtz, Dan Decuf, Brandon Murphy, Erin Looby Carlson, Beth Thieme
- b. Excused Absences: Pete Shaheen, Mark Mitchell, Angela Garner, Fr. Steve Gavit

III. Community Comment

- a. None

IV. Action Items

- a. Agenda for current meeting. Motion to approve by B. Thieme, support J. Tunney. Motion approved.
- b. Minutes from prior board meeting. Motion to approve by P. Sturtz, support J. Tunney. Motion approved.

V. Strategic Planning Review and Discussion

Deb Vansumeren presented on strategic planning with a focus on academic excellence.

a. Academic Excellence

- i. Religion Standards and Integration: Discussion of new religion standards for pre-K to 8th grade, which are being reviewed and integrated into classroom content. The Cardinal Newman Society's curriculum standards are being used to teach dispositions of teaching with faith, such as using sound logic in mathematics. High school standards are being developed by Bridget Jacqmain, with the goal of completing the pre-K to 12th-grade religion curriculum by April.
- ii. Professional Development and Teacher Evaluation: Emphasis on providing teachers with meaningful, tangible, and actionable opportunities to incorporate faith into teaching. The diocese is planning a professional development day on October 13, 2025, to help teachers develop a plan of action for faith integration. The teacher evaluation system includes a fifth component of faith, which will be used to measure the effectiveness of faith integration in teaching.
- iii. Student Growth and Achievement Data: Explanation of NWEA assessments to track student growth and achievement, with data analyzed to identify areas for improvement. Nouvel's national average growth is at the 70th percentile in

literacy and 76th in math. The goal is for every child to grow in academic achievement and social-emotional development while in the school's care.

- iv. There was discussion about creating a video resource for parents on how to interpret NWEA assessment results to better understand their child's progress.
- v. Data-Driven Instruction: The data is used to set marginal goals for individual classes and grade levels, with regular meetings to review progress and adjust strategies. The importance of educating parents about the meaning of test results and the school's growth expectations was highlighted.
- vi. Retention and Recruitment Strategies: Discussion on the importance of academic excellence in attracting and retaining students, with a focus on professional learning communities and collaboration with other schools. The school is working on building networks with other elite Catholic schools to share best practices and resources.
- vii. Accreditation and Continuous Improvement: Discussion on the school's accreditation process and the importance of continuous improvement. The school is breaking down the accreditation goals into yearly objectives to ensure consistent progress.
- viii. Speaker 2 emphasized the importance of the playbook as a model for the diocese.
- ix. Instructional Time and Scheduling: Challenges of balancing core instructional time with specials were discussed, with data showing significant time spent in specials. There was discussion about potentially increasing core instructional time while managing specials given current staffing parameters.
- x. Suggestions included aggressive communication with parents to explain changes and the importance of core instruction.
- xi. Future Vision: Discussion on offering world language programs and participating in competitions, with the goal of increasing student interest and involvement. The importance of having qualified teachers and offering a variety of educational opportunities was highlighted.

VI. Head of School Report

- a. D. Decuf presented the Head of School report focusing on strategic planning and academic excellence. He emphasized the importance of integrating faith into the curriculum and highlighted the need for measuring student growth effectively. He discussed the teacher evaluation system that includes a faith component and stressed

the importance of providing professional development opportunities for teachers. D. Decuf also addressed the need for balancing core instructional time with specialty classes and proposed solutions to optimize the school schedule.

VII. Superintendent Report

- a. Dr. C. Lynn presented a comprehensive report on diocesan initiatives and school performance. He discussed the accreditation process and its expansion to possibly three or four schools next year. Dr. Lynn emphasized the importance of teacher engagement in the accreditation process, noting that increased engagement leads to better implementation of goals. He addressed concerns about federal funding, clarifying that the funding is state-based and not tied to federal funds, with no significant changes expected.
- b. Dr. Lynn also highlighted the importance of experiential learning through partnerships with local industries and the medical field, with the goal of providing students with real-world job experiences. He discussed the senior internship semester as a way to offer unique experiences for students. Dr. Lynn presented recommendations for a new funding model for Catholic education that would incentivize schools and parishes to make progress, reduce dependency on assessments, and demonstrate financial stability through long term projections.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- a. Finance-Brian Buckingham
 - i. Discussed the current budget challenges, including the diocese shortfall on their assessment commitment. He highlighted a \$658,000 receivable owed to the diocese and emphasized the need for a balanced budget approach moving forward.
- b. Investment Committee- Jason Tunney
 - i. Update provided on investment performance and strategy. He discussed the consistent contributions to the school fund and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strategic investment approach to support long-term financial stability.
- c. Student Life and Catholic Mission- Erin Looby
 - i. Progress in developing student life goals aligned with Catholic culture. She highlighted recent student service activities and the importance of faith-based programming. She mentioned the success of the staff retreat on March 3, which included service projects and a commitment to make this a regular event.
- d. Athletic Strategic Planning – Dr. Blair White
 - i. Update on the athletic strategic plan and the progress in creating a measurable plan. He discussed the need for a clear and actionable

strategy for hiring coaches and engaging other stakeholders. Recent athletic competitions were highlighted, including band competitions at Franklin High School.

e. Head Stewardship

- i. Discussion focused on the importance of strengthening relationships with parishes and the broader Catholic community. There was emphasis on the need for ongoing collaboration with the diocese and the potential for future partnerships.

f. Philanthropy-Dr. Liz Marshall

- i. Discussed fundraising efforts, noting the need for clear and concrete plans for funded need projects to attract donors. She mentioned the importance of documenting the progress and success of funded projects to maintain donor confidence and recommended creating a promotional video to showcase the impact of previous funding.

g. Governance-Beth Thieme

- i. Pushed to next meeting

h. Building and Grounds

- i. Pushed to next meeting

IX. Board of Trustee Members to be Heard

X. New Business / Good of the Order

XI. Adjournment

- a. Next Board Meeting: April 9th, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Nouvel Jr/High School Library b.
- P. Furlo (filling in for absent P. Shaheen) moved and L. Marshall and B. Thieme supported simultaneously at 7: pm.

We are Nouvel Catholic Central, called by Christ to learn, love and lead... courageously.