

Meeting of Lourdes Academy Board of Trustees

Central Business Office, 250 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh, WI

February 19, 2025

6:15pm

Call to Order, Opening Prayer and Pledge:

Peter Derleth called the meeting to order at 6:16pm. The meeting opened with prayer led by Dcn. Rick, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Peter Derleth, Jennifer Geffers, Dave Hetzel, Dcn. Rick Hocking, Renee Husman, Sharon Keuler, Stephen Klein, Mark Nielsen, Bart Pritzl, Vanessa Wellens, Tina Wickham

Fr. Louis Golamari arrived at 6:23pm

Excused: Dave Flora

Others present include: Karen Boehm, John Dinegan, Taylin Mecklenberg, Kaden Okon, Chad Rath, Lois Reischl, Reed Tyrivier

Open Forum:

- Nothing brought forward

Approval of Agenda:

- Mark Nielsen motioned to approve the February 19, 2025 agenda. Dave Hetzel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Mark Nielsen motioned to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Dcn. Rick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report:

- A. John attended the Oshkosh Economic Breakfast – an annual event held at the Convention Center where guest speaker gives a presentation on the 2025 economic outlook. This year's speaker has appeared on Fox News, CNN and others.
- B. Last week John attended the System President's meeting at the Diocese. He brought up his concerns on rising costs affecting school systems; insurance premiums, audit costs, etc. He'll be discussing this further with Diocesan leadership.
- C. Catholic Schools Week was a positive experience highlighted with the All System mass held at St. Raphael. The mass was well organized and well planned out and began after the all system photo taken in the church.
- Finance Committee:
 - Dcn. Rick and Chad proposed the 25-26 budget to the Board.
 - Lourdes has seen a significant increase in expenses due to a range of factors; health insurance costs, added key positions to meet essential needs for students, higher demand for financial assistance, added costs to maintain our larger facilities, depreciation expenses and needed investment in our IT infrastructure.
 - A goal is to maintain our cash reserve balance as much as possible.
 - The proposed budget consists of essential needs only and paring it back any further would hinder our ability to operate up to our own expected standards.
 - Discussion held on some budget items.

Official Action:

- Mark Nielsen motioned to officially approve the proposed 2025/2026 budget. Dave Hetzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Dcn. Rick motioned to officially approved the proposed 2025/2026 academic calendar. Bart Pritzl seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Mark Nielsen made a motion to accept the proposed new policy 3065 – Delinquent Lunch Balance. Vanessa Wellens

seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Reports and Communications:

- A. Lourdes Academy Foundation Report – at the January Foundation meeting:
 - a. The Foundation Board received and accepted the resignation of Ben Heinzen.
 - b. Karen and Mary are in conversation with a new Foundation Board member
 - c. John gave an update on the ELC/Athletic Complex capital campaign
 - d. Karen, Carol, and Elli are working on a redesign of the Foundation and Planned Giving website. The Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees members are asked to preview the site and provide feedback to Karen.
- B. Student Representatives Report - Taylin Mecklenberg and Kaden Okon reported:
 - a. Winter formal was held at the end of Catholic Schools Week; the dance was DJ'd by 2 Lourdes alumni which was a lot of fun.
 - b. On Tuesday, a guest speaker gave a presentation to the students on social media/artificial intelligence and the digital foot print that students make and how that could impact their college and scholarship applications.
 - c. Seussical the Musical practices are in full swing. The performance is three weeks away and tickets are now on sale.
 - d. Literary Club and Chem Club officers met today.
 - e. A normal weekly mass will be held tomorrow.
 - f. Winter sports teams are finishing their regular season.
- C. Parish Representative Communication
 - a. Tina Wickham noted that St. Mary, Omro is hosting a speaker, Mr. Peace, with his program theme is Bullying: Look at the Heart First. This is a free event and everyone is encouraged to attend. Please share this information with Lourdes students. It's a free event and open to all ages.
 - b. The St. Mary, Omro youth are in the planning stages for a Peru mission trip.
 - c. Bart Pritzl highlighted that Dcn. Rick and Father Jerry are presenting "Catholic Faith Explained" sessions.
 - d. The area parishes (Oshkosh, Omro and Winneconne) are hosting an Oshkosh Area Eucharistic Congress June 20-22 – Corpus Christi weekend, a three-day event.
- D. Advancement and Enrollment Report:
 - a. Fortress painting is complete and looks good.
 - b. The banners are set up in the hallway near the chapel and look fantastic. A group focusing on Catholic Identity started meeting in June; a lot of time and effort has been put into this and with the Holy Spirit, fruitful ideas have come to make our campus reflect our Catholic identity. Two sets of Stations of the Cross will be installed; one set is ready to go up in the Commons and another set will be installed around the courtyard when they are ready.
 - c. Trivia Knight is Saturday night still a little bit of time to register.
 - d. Thank you for those that supported the Week of Giving. The Advancement team has spent time this year talking to students about what development does at Lourdes Academy and what that means now and when they become alumni; focusing on a heart of gratitude and a heart of appreciation. Last week 15 to 20 high school teens participated in a phone-a-thon. It was a fun connection for the students and those they spoke with.
- E. Curriculum and Instruction Report -
 - a. Reed reported that speaker Paul Sanfrancesco, spoke to all students in grades 4 through 12 and later to staff and parents in the evening. He challenged the students about social media and artificial intelligence and their false sense of security.
 - b. A team from Lourdes continues to participate in the Catholic Leadership Academy. At this point the group is developing a plan of excellence which will culminate with the group presenting the plan in April and then rolling it out to Lourdes staff next year.
 - c. Scooter hockey took place in January, the Freshman Tomorrow's leaders organized and ran the event which raised about \$2500. This looks to be an annual event going forward.
 - d. Catholic School Week was great – the kids had a lot of fun. Elementary and middle school students went bowling at Rev's and then were treated to dilly bars when they returned.
 - e. The 5th grade DARE program started last week
 - f. You are all encouraged to attend a home basketball game where freshman Lillian Reetz will be singing the national anthem. She is amazing.

F. Committee Reports

- a. Facilities Committee
 - a. No meeting held
- b. Marketing Committee
 - a. No meeting held
- c. Advancement Committee
 - a. Mark and Karen are working together to put together an effective advancement committee - small steps, doing it correctly, with good advance planning.
- d. Human Resources Committee
 - a. The next meeting, in April, will focus on health insurance talking points for the next plan year.
 - b. Terry Chier retired from the committee and his career. Thank you for being an original member of the committee since 2014.
- e. Curriculum Committee
 - a. The next meeting will be in March.

New Business:

- A. Nothing brought forward

Old Business:

- A. ELC/Athletic Complex Capital Campaign update
 - a. The first leadership team meeting took place in January, the second team meeting is next week.
 - b. Donor visits will begin next month.
 - c. John is meeting with the Rettler Corporation, the sports complex contractor, in addition to meeting with Ganther and the City for planning purposes.

Announcements

- The March 19th Board meeting will begin at 6pm to allow for an additional open forum for School Choice families.
- Board Evaluations forth coming next week via email from Peter Derleth.

Future Agenda Items

- Nothing brought up

The meeting closed with the Glory Be prayer.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mark Nielsen at 7:14pm and seconded by Dcn. Rick to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Lois Reischl, Recording Secretary