

Meeting of Lourdes Academy Board of Trustees
Central Business Office, 250 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh, WI
December 17, 2025
6:15pm

Call to Order, Opening Prayer and Pledge:

Peter Derleth called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. The meeting opened with prayer led by Dcn. Rick, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Peter Derleth, Dave Flora, Jennifer Geffers, Dave Hetzel, Dcn. Rick Hocking, Renee Husman, Sharon Keuler, Mark Nielsen, Tina Wickham

Excused: Fr. Louis Golamari, Fr. Tom Long

Vanessa Wellens arrived at 6:49pm

Others present include: Karen Boehm, John Dinegan, Chad Rath, Lois Reischl

Review of Mission: Peter Derleth read over the Responsibilities of a Board of Trustees members and thanked the Board member for all they do.

Open Forum:

- Nothing brought up

Approval of Agenda:

- Mark Nielsen motioned to approve the December 17, 2025 agenda. Dcn. Rick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Mark Nielsen motioned to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes. Dcn. Rick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report:

- A. John highlighted that the curriculum committee is focusing on English/Language Arts; making foundational decisions. it will take about two years to review this area. We need to have better connection from grade to grade and making sure that all grades are approaching things in a common way and then moving up the grades as students move up.
- B. John gathered the latest updates on pricing on the ELC and Athletic field - Uknighthed campaign

Official Action:

- No official action

Reports and Communications:

- A. Lourdes Academy Foundation Report –
 - a. No meeting held
- B. Student Representatives Report –
 - a. No report
- C. Parish Representative Communication
 - a. St. Mary – Omro:
 - a. Currently the youth of St. Mary Omro are fundraising for the upcoming student mission trip to Memphis to take place this summer
 - b. The giving tree is helping 7 different families from the Omro elementary school and serving 40 people in the Elder Grace program.
 - c. The Faith Formation students have put together “Blessing Bags” with basic necessities that parishioner can pass out to those in need.
 - b. St. Mary – Winneconne:
 - a. Dcn. Paul has announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2026
 - b. The welcoming center build is coming along
 - c. The St. Mary – Winneconne website needs updated information about Lourdes Academy. Karen was taking this back to her team.
- D. Advancement Report:
 - a. Karen reported that there are three new pre-school students starting in January
 - b. She has been reaching out to donors throughout the year – just to update them about happenings at Lourdes and where their donation dollars are going.
 - c. Karen shared that as she’s making thank you calls for gifts for the Lourdes Fund, conversations with past parent, alumni, grandparent have mentioned to her why they still give to Lourdes is because of the lasting impact Lourdes had on them or their loved one.
 - d. She also shared that in a conversation with Carol Morris, campus minister, that at a recent student retreat day it was amazing to see how intentional the kids were; present and reverent. She was so excited to see that in the kids.
- E. Curriculum and Instruction Report –
 - a. Lots of concerts, advent work, busy time for everyone. Parish priests have helped with the sacrament of reconciliation. Several parents were in attendance at our Holy Day Mass on December 8th.
 - b. High School participated in the alumni memorial mass. Fr Jerry presides at the mass held at Most Blessed Sacrament parish. After

mass it's a great time to connect with members from the entire history of Lourdes.

c. It was requested that the Board be given an update on fund raising for the youth attending the March for Life.

F. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

- a. Dcn. Rick reported that of the \$300,000 budget shortfall, \$126,000 has been found - some of this is deferring maintenance. The Booster Club will be covering the entire cost of using Titan Stadium.
- b. In the budget process for 26/27, the financial picture will be more difficult, attempting to get a balanced budget.
- c. UKnighted Campaign – the updated project total is now \$10M, up \$2,2M from original costs. There was a handout with some options. The Board members were asked to look over the options and further discussion will be held at the January Board meeting.
- d. John and Dcn. Rick met with Fr. Louis about the ELC leaving the St. Jude site. The parish expected Lourdes to be out of their building already. If we will be staying in the building in the fall, we'll have to have a long term agreement and will have to absorb the cost that St. Jude has been covering for Lourdes.
- e. A question that needs to be addressed is what will our limit of School Choice student seats be in our planning. This is a debate the Board will also need to discuss at the next meeting. Administration is looking at opening up School Choice to PK4 and 4K classes.

b. Facilities Committee

- a. No questions on the report

c. Marketing Committee

- a. No report

d. Advancement Committee

- a. The next meeting will be held tomorrow

e. Human Resources Committee

- a. No meeting held

f. Curriculum Committee

- a. CESA, a resource for schools, will be brought in for help with phonics work.
- b. There is still some struggles with the transitioning of new students; fundamental grammar, shifting from public school environment, making new friends. When we're touring students, we need to make it apparent what we can and cannot offer and set expectations.
- c. AI and ChatGPT is a problem in the middle and high school. The teachers are promoting students to use resources but not cheat.

New Business:

- A. The typical third Wednesday in February Board meeting date is Ash Wednesday. The Meeting will be moved to the next day, Thursday, February 19th.

Old Business:

- A. Nothing brought forward

Announcements

- Nothing brought forward

Future Agenda Items

- Nothing brought forward

A Glory Be was said to close the meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mark Nielsen at 7:13pm and seconded by Dave Hetzel to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Lois Reischl, Recording Secretary