

Meeting of Lourdes Academy Board of Trustees
Central Business Office, 250 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh, WI
November 19, 2025
6:00pm

Call to Order, Opening Prayer and Pledge:

Mark Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. The meeting opened with prayer led by Fr. Tom, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Dave Flora, Fr. Louis Golamari, Dcn. Rick Hocking, Renee Husman, Sharon Keuler, Fr. Tom Long, Mark Nielsen, Vanessa Wellens, Tina Wickham

Excused: Peter Derleth, Jennifer Geffers, Dave Hetzel

Others present include: Brett Baehman, Karen Boehm, John Dinegan, Dave Mikesell, Chad Rath, Lois Reischl, Abigail Thorson

Review of Mission: John shared how we're living our mission...several were at Friday's football game in Wisconsin Rapids. It was a really good experience – kids, families. The school system united in a special school experience at the State semi-final game. All the people behind the scenes and supporting our team. Our system shined as a community. We should be proud of how we conducted ourselves in a tightly contested game.

Open Forum I:

- Nothing brought up

Open Forum II:

- Nothing brought up

Approval of Agenda:

- Dcn. Rick motioned to approve the November 19, 2025 agenda. Fr. Tom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Vanessa Wellens motioned to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Fr. Louis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report:

- A. It was great to see all the people really involved in the Gala. It's a good time to reconnect at those events. Everyone had a good time and really enjoyed themselves.
- B. There was a lot of activity this month. The Diocese hosted a professional development day, with workshops related to teacher/administration fields. The day opened with mass, celebrated by Fr. Giorotti.
- C. We continue to hold CatholicLeader Academy sessions. All Lourdes employees are participating with positive feedback so far.
- D. We're recovering from the aftermath of the water main break on October 30th. Zillges came and fixed the break and was done in four hours. The bill came in much lower than anticipated. Last week a sump pump in the area of the break did fail but has since been replaced.

Official Action:

- No official action

Reports and Communications:

- A. Lourdes Academy Foundation Report –
 - a. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation and approval of the CLA compilation report.
- B. Student Representatives Report –
 - a. Abigail Thorson reported that football made it to the State semi-final game. Volleyball made it to playoffs but lost in the first round. Boys soccer made it to their state semi-final match. Girls and Boys basketball has started. Last week the school had an all system Veterans Day mass with brunch to follow for the veterans. The powerlifting season has started. Last week the National Honor Society had their induction and the Madrigal dinner is coming up on the 14th of December.
- C. Parish Representative Communication
 - a. St. Mary-Winneconne held their annual meeting. The new addition to the church is coming along and is planned to be completed something this summer.
- D. Advancement Report:
 - a. Karen handed out the Gala recap; we fell short of goal by about \$50,000. Looking at adjustments as we move through the year. Attendance was up nearly by 100 people this year.
 - b. Advancement Committee is looking at event sponsorship for the future, this was an area that was down at the Gala along with Build the Future didn't meet the goal.
 - c. Brett spoke to the handouts he had for marketing. The marketing committee did student surveys with 7th, 8th and freshman classes. This was a baseline survey so that trends can be reviewed in the future. At end of year, there will be a freshman and senior student experience survey conducted.
 - d. Catholic Identity committee has done a lot of awesome things in the building – the next project is focusing on the high school lounge area. The students will meet with Brett to discuss this area – their input is important since this is their area.
 - e. The external marketing program for 26/27 enrollment will begin in December.

E. Curriculum and Instruction Report –

- a. Pack the pantry was held and brought in almost 4000 food items.
- b. Trick or treating was pushed back a few days due to the water main break but the elementary students were able to walk to Bethel Home for the fun event when school reopened.
- c. Middle School held their performance of Frozen Jr.
- d. 8th grade went to the vocations fair earlier in November. Kudos to our 8th graders from Lourdes who offered to help and clean up after the event.
- e. The sophomore class held their retreat at the Shrine in Champion.
- f. Dave discussed the ACT assessment data.
 - a. This year a core math class was added for the current freshman class. This was strategically added to help students to be exposed to all the needed instruction for the class of '29 to take the ACT in their junior year
 - b. Administration will continue to evaluate new strategies to prepare the students to take this test.

F. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee
 - a. Dcn Rick reported that enrollment really fell short of the budget. Going forward we'll take a more conservative approach for the next budget. Because of the shortfall, a significant list of ideas was created to try to make up the deficit. The committee will keep a close watch on the finances. It's going to be tough year. To get to breakeven cash flow, we need to find #330,000 between now and June to mitigate dipping into our reserve cash. Focusing on increasing enrollment would be ideal to increase revenue to close this gap.
- b. Facilities Committee
 - a. No questions on the report
- c. Marketing Committee
 - a. At the committee meeting, the group went over the student survey results. A portion of the meeting was to discuss keeping the parish relationships growing.
- d. Advancement Committee
 - a. At the advancement meeting, they looked at the way in sponsorships have been developed in the past. Also looked for ways to mirror what some of the other schools are doing to increase revenue.
 - b. The committee is creating a stewardship plan for donors; looking at how we can recognize our donors throughout the year, rather than at one event. Highlight and promote their contribution to our organization.
- e. Human Resources Committee
 - a. The committee talked about setting goals for this year regarding mapping student volunteer hours to the acts of mercy. The committee will also look at strategies to recruit volunteers to all areas of the system; tap into young adults and retirees.
 - b. An EVP survey refresh will be looked at in the future.
- f. Curriculum Committee
 - a. No meeting held

New Business:

- A. Nothing brought forward

Old Business:

- A. Nothing brought forward

Announcements

- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone

Future Agenda Items

- Nothing brought forward

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Dcn. Rick at 6:40pm and seconded by Renee Husman to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Lois Reischl, Recording Secretary