



CEDAR VALLEY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Agenda
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
Columbus High School Room 128

Elected/Appointed Board Members

Father Tom McDermott	Pastoral Rep - Saint Edward	Present
Father Tony Kruse	Appointed Rep - Blessed Sacrament	Present
Jake Schaefer	At Large – Blessed Sacrament	Present
Eric Bearbower	At Large - Saint Edward	Present
Greg Stammeyer	Elect - Blessed Sacrament	Present
John Fitzpatrick	Elect - Sacred Heart	Present
Ki Park	Elect - Saint Edward	Present
Laura Schaefer	Elect - Saint Patrick	Present
Eric Donat	Elect - Queen of Peace	Present-Zoom

In Attendance: CVCS Staff

Tom Novotney	Chief Administrator	Present
Aaron Becker	Saint Edward Principal	Present
Nick Miller	Blessed Maria Assunta Pallota Principal	Present
Katie Friedly	Columbus Catholic Interim Principal	Present
Stephanie Kane	Director of Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction	Present
Sarah Smith	Advancement Director	Present
Dawn Pollastrini	Controller	Present
Amy Peters	HR Director	Present
Julie Girsch	Activities Director	Present
Annie Zeets	Waterloo Parish Faith Formation Representative	Absent
Kelly Christensen	Finance Committee Chair	Absent

Call To Order:

Jake Schaefer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Prayer: Laura Schaefer

Introduction of Guests-Correspondence, & Request to Address the Board

N/A

Adjustments to the agenda/Approve the agenda:

Motion: Approve the agenda

(Eric B- motion, Ki Second) Motion carried.

Consent agenda:

- January 22nd, 2026 Board Minutes
- February 19th, 2026 Finance Minutes
- Consideration of Monthly Revenue & Expense Reports
- Consideration of Personnel: hires, reassignments, resignations, & terminations

Motion: Approve the consent agenda

(Greg - motion, Laura Second) Motion Carried.

Information:

1. BMAP presentation - Nick Miller

Mr. Miller walked through Standards Based Grading (SBG) and the differences between SBG and traditional grading.

BMAP uses FAST data (aReading and aMath), along with Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) to intervene with students who need additional support in ELA and math. Data for FAST shows a slight line of growth over the years. Mr. Miller is considering ways to get the school “unstuck” and show more growth and progression in these screeners and to move students to further proficiency in SBG.

Mr. Miller also shared Tier 2 supports, including staffing interventionists, data protocol for intervention, and progress monitoring.

100% of 7th grade students who were participating in intervention experienced “aggressive growth” from fall to winter FAST.

BMAP will be implementing 21st century skills standards, such as work completion and academic readiness, to help with encouraging students to complete their work and prepare for high school traditional grading. BMAP is

also planning to focus more on academic vocabulary, have increased opportunities for practice outside of the classroom, and continue to refine and improve systems of support. Mr. Miller is also considering ways to help move students forward who are already doing exceptionally well.

2. CHS Program of Study - Katie

Sent in the Board packet. Highlights include new classes for 26/27 and pass/fail for two Theology classes.

3. Enrollment update - Sarah Smith

Packets of most recent numbers shared. 759 currently enrolled students K-12, 81% toward budget goal. 87% of current families have completed enrollment

1st Grade - 97% full

Anticipating PK4, Kindergarten, 1st grade and Grade 9 will be full by April

Old business – Action Items:

1. iPads with Apple+ Care proxy revised request - Tom

Previously approved purchase does not include Apple+Care.

Motion: To approve updated cost with including Apple+ Care

(Greg- motion, Ki Second) Motion carried.

New business – Action Items:

1. Out of State Trip to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine - Nick Miller

Gabrielle Elsbernd is hoping to take students to the pilgrimage in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Students can sign up to go.

Motion: To approve out of state trip to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine

(Laura- motion, Eric D Second) Motion carried.

2. 2026 FTE - Amy Peters

Requesting 87.875 FTE for potential contracts to be issued next year. Special education, Title I, and Theology teachers (without teaching license) would not be included in FTE.

Motion: To approve 87.875 FTE for 26/27 school year

(Greg- motion, Eric D Second) Motion carried.

3. 2026 Teacher contracts - Amy Peters

The Board does not need to approve due to using Archdiocese language that can't change. Contracts include supporting documentation from the arch. Amy P emailed the board a copy of the contract and supporting documentation.

4. FSB credit card limit - Dawn

CVCS currently has a 20k limit on FSB credit cards (4 cards). This has been discussed already by finance. Asking to raise the limit from 20k to 50k.

Motion: To change credit card limit from 20k to 50k

(Eric D- motion, Fr. Tom Second) Motion carried.

5. Employee handbook change - Amy Peters

Admin team is recommending updates to the handbook regarding taking time off during professional development days. Changes are in the Board packet.

Motion: To approve the employee handbook updates

(Fr. Tom- motion, Eric B Second) Motion carried.

6. Wrestling mat proxy - Julie Girsch

CHS currently use two competition wrestling mats. One was replaced roughly 5-6 years ago but the other is older and needs to be replaced. The cost is just over \$13k. There are donor funds available to cover the purchase. The older wrestling mat will not be thrown away, but it is still to be determined what will be done with it.

Motion: To move forward with purchasing a new wrestling mat

(Greg- motion, Laura Second) Motion carried.

7. Westminster lease proxy - Tom

Seeking approval to lease Westminster proxy. Information in board packet. Anticipating signing lease in the next two weeks.

Need to correct name on proxy.

Motion: To approve lease with Westminster

(Fr. Tom- motion, Ki Second) Motion carried.

8. Zero turn mower proxy - Tom

The zero turn mower is a need to take care of the CHS/BMAP grounds, including the football/soccer field. The current zero turn has surpassed its lifespan and the number/cost of repairs is not sustainable. There is room in the budget for this. Adam Plautz is recommending TigerCat2.

Motion: To move forward with purchase of zero turn mower

(Fr. Tony- motion, John Second) Motion carried. Bearbower abstained from vote.

9. Childcare Benefit- Tom

Looking to provide discounts on childcare rates for employees

Motion: Approve discounts on childcare rates for employees.

(Eric B- motion, Greg Second) Motion carried.

10. 2026-2027 budget - Dawn & Tom

Budget emailed out and hard copies provided. Seeking approval of the 2026-2027 budget.
No motion at this time.

In-service:

Fr. Tom

“Be disarmed so we can be disarming”

Additional Documents/Reports:

- Faith Formation Report - absent
- Advancement Office Report - in packet
- Chief Administrator Report
- News from Principals and Activity Department - in packet
- Board Announcements -

Executive Session:

Motion to go to Exec Session at 6:39 pm

(Greg- motion, Laura Second)

Motion to go to come out of Exec Session at 7:50 pm

(Fr. Tom- motion, Fr. Tony second)

Adjournment:

Motion to conclude Board meeting at 7:51 pm

(Greg- motion, Fr. Tony Second)

Executive Board meeting:

Monday, March 9, 2026 - 4:30 PM

Prayer - Greg Stammeyer

High School Office

Next Board meeting:

Thursday, March 26, 2026 - 5:30 PM

Prayer – Eric Donat

Columbus High School Room 128