



CEDAR VALLEY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Agenda
Thursday, March 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	Absent
Nick Miller	Blessed Maria Assunta Pallota Principal	Absent
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: Eric Donat

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

Guest Speaker: Queen of Peace representatives

Adjustments to the agenda/Approve the agenda:

Motion: To move Queen of Peace to information so there is not a limit on time and questions can be asked.

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

Consent agenda:

- February 26th, 2026 Board Minutes
- March 12th, 2026 Finance Minutes
- Consideration of Monthly Revenue & Expense Reports
- Consideration of Personnel: hires, reassignments, resignations, & terminations

Motion: Approve the consent agenda.

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

Information:

1. Queen of Peace reps

Finance Council and Pastoral Council representatives. Queen of Peace (QOP) has been having Masses at Sacred Heart but have been limited to two Masses. Parishioners have been lost with the Mass changes, which has meant loss of financial support and altering of the budget. Overall income was down 34% through the February statement. QOP was in a deficit for the month of February. All fundraising is currently dedicated to the ceiling fund and not going toward the general fund. Asking for leniency as they're in limbo with Journey of Faith, ceiling repairs, etc. Looking at potentially an 11k deficit, and breaking even would be good. Also, they brought up the possibility of deferring the payment for a period of time. The Board will report back to Eric Donat and Fr. Nils.

2. Enrollment update - Sarah Smith

Email was sent with updated numbers. The Advancement Team will be visiting parishes in April and May to talk about ESAs and enrollment. Sacred Heart and Blessed

Sacrament are scheduled, St. Edward is in discussion, and still working with Queen of Peace.

Old business – Action Items:

1. 2026-2027 budget - Dawn & Tom

Budgeting for 940 students in K-12 and 66 for PK4. The updated budget includes Board approved raises for certified staff, non-certified staff, and coaches.

Motion: To approve the budget for the 26/27 school year.

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

New business – Action Items:

1. Gen Bio Cadaver Lab field trip - Katie

This request is for a one-day Biology field trip to University of Wisconsin–Platteville on April 20th for 22 students and one chaperone. The purpose of the trip is to give students a hands-on extension of their learning by exploring animal anatomy in “The Animal House” and participating in a student-led cadaver lab experience to better understand human anatomy. Students will leave early in the morning, complete both learning experiences on campus, stop for lunch in Dubuque, and return by the end of the school day. The only cost to students is a \$4 lab fee and their lunch, with transportation covered by the school.

Motion: To approve the out of state field trip request.

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

2. ICAP/DCAP - Katie

A district team with representatives from St. Edward, Blessed Maria, and Columbus met twice in person to review and revise the ICAP/DCAP. One of the biggest changes to note is the move from Naviance to Xello for the career and readiness platform. There will also be more intention around creating and revisiting four year plans.

The School Board took time to review ICAP/DCAP updates for the 26/27 school year.

3. CHS soft water system proxy

Quotes in the board packet.

Motion: Approval for the soft water system at Columbus High School.

(Greg- motion, Laura Second) Motion carried.

In-service:

Fr. Tom

Executive Session:

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:45 pm

(Greg- motion, Ki Park Second) Motion carried.

Motion to go to come out of Executive Session at 7:30 pm

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

Action Items:

- 1) Queen of Peace subsidy relief

Motion: Approval to (1) reduce Queen of Peace's March and April subsidy by 50%; (2) defer the other 50% of the March and April subsidy to fiscal year 2026-2027; (3) on the condition that CVCS is provided the opportunity to speak at Masses about enrollment; and (4) the CVCS Board will revisit the request at the April Board meeting.

(Greg- motion, John- Second) Motion carried. Eric Donat - abstained; Fr. Tony - absent

- 2) Teacher contract

Motion: To approve nonrenewal of one teacher contract.

(Ki Park- motion, Laura Schaefer- Second) Motion carried. Fr. Tony - absent

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm

(Eric Donat- motion, Eric Bearbower- Second) Motion carried.

Additional Documents/Reports:

- Faith Formation Report
- Advancement Office Report
- Chief Administrator Report
 - Shared engagement information from the Hallow app for the system.
 - Katie and Tom will get board members access.
 - At Let Your Light Shine, learned that Columbus has 52 high school students involved in Serva Fidem.
- News from Principals and Activity Department - in packet
- Board Announcements -

Adjournment:

Motion to conclude Board meeting at 7:35 pm
(Greg- motion, Fr. Tom Second)

Executive Board meeting:

Monday, April 13, 2026 - 4:30 PM

Prayer - Laura Schaefer

High School Office

Next Board meeting:

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 5:30 PM

Prayer – John Fitzpatrick

Columbus High School Room 128