

**Light of Christ Catholic Schools  
Board of Directors**



**Light of Christ Catholic Schools**

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
SMCHS – Forum Room  
1:15 pm Board Meeting**

- I. Call to Order – Opening Prayer  
Present: Fr. Ehli, Fr. Hochhalter, Fr. Johnson, Fr. Kovash, Msgr. Schumacher, Mitch Armstrong, Lorne Duppong, Elizabeth Jones, Greg Vetter  
  
Absent: None  
  
In attendance: Gerald Vetter, Daniel Neff, Tracy Friesen
- II. Approval of Agenda/Minutes - *(emailed document)*  
A motion was made to approve the agenda, as well as the minutes from the August 17, 2023 board meeting.  
Moved: Mitch Armstrong  
Second: Greg Vetter  
The agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Existing Business
  - a. Upcoming Events
    - i. Bishop Convocation – October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023
      - 1. SMCHS will host this year Bishop's Convocation for Catholic Education on October 18, 2023, for all the Catholic School educators from throughout the diocese.
- IV. Living Mission
  - a. President's Office
    - i. Re-Enrollment and Enrollment Report
      - 1. Gerald Vetter provided an update on student enrollment. To date, there are a total of 1,473 students enrolled in Light of Christ Catholic Schools. This is an increase of 39 students (+2.7%) from the previous academic year.
    - ii. School Activities Report
      - 1. Presidential Report – *(Update)*
        - a. Gerald Vetter reported on several initiatives currently being planned, including a new Parent Ambassador Program and the St. Mary's Carnival.
      - 2. Elementary School Logos – *(Update)*
        - a. Progress continues to be made in a unified marketing plan for the three elementary schools. System unity, equity, and consistency will be the guiding principles for a successful completion of this initiative.
      - 3. Volleyball 3-Class System – *(Update)*
        - a. Three divisions will begin in the Fall of 2025, with the final plan still being developed.

\*Note: All approvals by the Light of Christ Board still need to be *confirmed* by the Bishop (the Board President).  
All approved contracts also need to be passed through Diocesan Legal Counsel and Catholic Mutual Group.

4. Strength and Conditioning – *(Update)*
    - a. Gerald Vetter updated the board on the strength and conditioning program for various athletic programs.
  5. Girls Basketball Coaching Staff – *(Update)*
    - a. The head girls' basketball coaching position for St. Mary's Central High School is currently open. Several interested applicants have applied.
  6. Hot Lunch – *(Update)*
    - a. Dan Neff and John Herold have recently meet with all primary cooks to work toward continued equity and consistency among the elementary schools.
  7. Catholic Schools Presidents – *(Update)*
    - a. The Presidents of the Catholic School systems in the Diocese of Bismarck met recently to discuss service opportunities, accreditation, and fundraising events.
- iii. SANS and Legislature
1. School Choice – *(Update)*
    - a. The first legislative education study meeting was held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Topics discussed included school choice, school choice task force, and virtual/weather related days.

V. Management Reports

- a. VP of Academic Affairs
  - i. Academic Update – *(Update)*
    1. Tracy Friesen provided an academic update, which included school year startup, a curriculum update, and state reporting update.
  - ii. ND Compliance – *(Approval Requested)*
    1. The board was presented the annual Configuration and Compliance Approval Letter. Each of the board members individually acknowledged and verbally affirmed that the following items were presented:
    2. That the Board received the Annual DPI Compliance Report Criteria that was verified by the Principals/President of the Schools.
    3. The Board of Directors of the Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence approves unanimously the operation of the Light of Christ Catholic Schools according to these configurations:
      - a. Each school at Light of Christ have verified and completed the statutory requirements as identified on the Annual Compliance Report verifying that each school in the nonpublic school network is in accordance with statutory requirements. Each school administrator has provided the verification and the signature of all compliance requirements. A motion is requested by the governing board of directors to formally approve the compliance for each school and for the Light of Christ Catholic Schools system to submit the verification for this to the Department of Public Instruction.
      - b. The Board of Directors of the Light of Christ Catholic Schools of Excellence approves unanimously the operation of the Light of Christ Catholic Schools according to these configurations:
        - i. Saint Anne School to operate as a K-5 elementary school with a preschool and pre-kindergarten program for the 2023-2024 school year.

- ii. St. Mary's Grade School to operate as a K-5 elementary school with a preschool and pre-kindergarten program for the 2023-2024 school year.
- iii. Cathedral School to operate as a K-5 elementary school with a preschool and pre-kindergarten program for the 2023-2024 school year.
- iv. The St. Mary's Middle School Academy to operate as a 6-8 middle school for the 2023-2024 school year.
- v. St. Mary's Central High School to operate as a 9-12 high school for the 2023-2024 school year.

VI. Finance & Mission Advancement Offices:

- a. BOC Committee Report by Committee Chair – *(Update)*
  - i. The Business Operations Committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Church of Corpus Christi. Items discussed included a recent security grant received, strength and conditioning, and mission advancement staffing.
- b. Mission Advancement Report – *(Update)*
  - i. Staffing – *(Update)*
    - 1. Dan Neff provided a staff update for the mission advancement department.
- c. Financial Report - *(emailed document)*
  - i. Dan Neff presented the financial dashboard and statements from August.

VII. Closing Prayer – Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting: *October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, @ 1:15pm*
- b. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Jared Johnson

Secretary, Light of Christ Board of Directors