



# MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

1316 BEL AIR BLVD., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • TEL 715.723.0538 • FAX 715.723.1501 • WWW.MACS.K12.WI.US

**Our Vision:** Committed to the formation of community, academic excellence and the spiritual and physical well-being of each student in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

**Our Mission:** We are the school of choice for an excellent Catholic faith based education within the Chippewa Falls area. We welcome all families to be a part of our school community no matter their faith or financial means. In partnership with our parents, we form the whole child in support of our values and mission. Our vision of the whole child consists of a lifelong learner, who upon graduation, is academically prepared for post-secondary education and career, grounded in relationship with Jesus Christ, balanced physically and emotionally, and actively engages as servant leaders in family, parish, and civic communities.

## JOINT EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING Summary

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:00 p.m.**

St Charles Fellowship Hall  
810 Pearl St, Chippewa Falls

AGENDA	TIME	LEADER	NOTES
Welcome/Gathering Invocation/Prayer	4:45/ 5:00	Molly Bushman Fr. Kren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Molly gave welcome and opening comments</li><li>• Fr. Kren offered a prayer</li></ul>
Presentation Feed My People Food Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Security</li></ul>	5:05	Michelle Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michelle pride spoke at length about food security. She also mentioned various activities at Feed My People</li></ul>
Adjourn & Convene to Individual Meetings	6:00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjourned, and CFAUSD personnel departed.</li></ul>

RECONVENE Education Commission

**November 29, 2022 – 6:00 PM**

**St. Charles Parish Hall**

AGENDA	LEAD	NOTES
Reconvene for Commission Meeting	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Reconvened by Chair</li> </ul>
Review Mission/Vision Statement Review evidence of the last month	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary and Molly gave examples of evidence of Mission/Vision</li> </ul>
Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes – emailed</li> <li>Principals' Reports</li> <li>Dean of Academics Report</li> <li>Student Support Services Report</li> <li>Finance &amp; Facilities Committee Report</li> <li>Long Range Planning Committee Report</li> <li>Advancement Report</li> <li>Enrollment</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FACTS - system will not be ready until around the middle of January 2024. So at this point registration is not possible.</li> </ul>
Items removed by Commission from Consent Agenda for discussion	Staff as requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Reports from Parish and Student Representatives	Parish and Student Reps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snack service spoke about earlier this year by Mr. Kasper is up and running.</li> <li>Holy Ghost and Notre Dame will have First Invitation for OCIA candidates.</li> </ul>
<b>Committees</b>  <u>Catholic Mission Team Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CM hire underway</li> </ul>	6:20  Fr. Kren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New hire for city-wide youth ministry is almost certain, but not announced officially yet, pending final acceptance. His tentative start is next Monday.</li> <li>School Mass will be at Notre Dame on 12/8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.</li> <li>A trip is planned for boys, to St Francis Seminary in Milwaukee.</li> </ul>
<b>Commission Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocation wall of fame</li> </ul>	6:30 Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The idea of a "Vocations wall of fame" was discussed, which would highlight all McDonnell/MACS graduates who went on to religious life or ordained ministry. This idea was recently put forth by Scott Siegenthaler. All present spoke approvingly of the idea. Fr. Kren is to check with Cathy Greenseth to</li> </ul>

		determine if a list of names is already compiled.
<b>Presidents Update</b> TBA	6:40 Molly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wendi Bass has been hired as the new Business Manager.</li> </ul>
NEXT Education Commission Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition recommendation and preliminary budget</li> <li>Music and arts guest presentation</li> </ul>	6:55	<b>Next meeting</b> - December 14, 2022, 5:30 PM
Closing Prayer and Adjournment	Priest	

### Membership

	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer  Executive Committee Finance & Facilities Committee Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	Chair/St John's Rep 1st Term
	Chad Brady	Software Consultant  Executive Committee LRP and Finance/Facilities	Vice Chair / Holy Ghost Rep
	TJ Proue	Attorney vonBriesen & Roper, s.c.  Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance  Strategic Plan Embracing Our Community Committee	All Saints Rep 1st Term
	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking Long Range Planning Committee	Holy Cross Rep 1st Term
	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees)  Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep 1st Term
	Mike Crawford	Access Security Sales and Estimations  Finance & Facilities Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
	Matt Elstran	Hideaway Resort & Francesca Resource Center  Strategic Plan Steering Committee	Notre Dame Rep 3rd Term
	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid UWEC  Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
	Vacant		Sacred Heart Rep
	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources  Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep 2nd Term

	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
	Regi Geissler	Registered Nurse HSHS Safety and Emergency Procedures Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
	Victoria Silvas	Ad Hoc Tuition	St Paul's Rep
	Diane Herron	Homemaker Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep 2nd Term

### Ex-Officio

	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
	Fr Alex Kren	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Chaplain
	Molly Bushman	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	President
	Mary Huffcutt	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Dean of Academics
	Eric Wedemeyer	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal ND/McD 6-12
	Gwen Doyle	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal HG 3-5
	Jamie Dodge	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal SC Pk-2
	Scott Sokup	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Controller
	Kathleen Adams	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Exec Admin Asst Admissions Coordinator

### Student Representatives

	Frederick Blair	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
	Ben Siegenthaler	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

## Reports

### **Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup**

- Fall Audit November 29 and 30
- Tuition - work in progress

### **Director of IT Josh McCormick**

- The migration to FACTS for our new Student Information System has started, with the goal to be up and running by the end of December this year, so we can use it to enroll students for next year
- The failed Elementary security camera NVR has been replaced.
- Smart thermometers have been installed at the High School, and St. Charles freezers and coolers . This will send alerts if one of the units quits working. Holy Ghost thermometers will be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- In the process of interviewing for the Help Desk and AV Specialist position.
- The Migration of our Website hosting service has been completed

- The Emergency Procedure committee has approved moving forward with Mitel Revolution as our emergency paging/alert system, working with Marco to get an updated proposal so we can get it implemented.

**Director of Advancement**

- Tabled

**Admissions Coordinator Kathleen Adams**

Grade	Total Students 2022-23	Total Students Enrolled 2023-24	New Students 2023-24 (included in total students enrolled)	Inquiring
3K		16	16	3
4K		24	24	8
K	39	39	39	9
1-2	57	68	10	0
3-5	120	110	6	2
6-8	124	148	25	3
9-12	205	198	24	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>30</b>

- Soup Supper November 29 for potential Little Macks 3K, 4K and Kindergarten 2024-25
- New FACTS student system - work in progress. We will be ready for 2024-25 enrollment
- Annual fall enrollment audit November 29 and 30
- Direct inquiring families to Kathleen at [k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us](mailto:k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us) or 715-723-0538

**St Charles Grades Pk-2 Principal Jamie Dodge**

- 4K had their first parental outreach night and Mrs. Angie scheduled a Literacy Night. A local author came in to read her book to the students and the students did a fun literacy activity with their parents. It was a blast!
- 2nd Grade students had their first Adoration on November 13th and it went really well. They will be doing adoration again in the spring.
- We had vision and hearing screenings this month and it went well. Thank you to the Lions Club for helping with Vision Screenings. We were able to help catch some students who may need to have their vision and hearing checked more thoroughly.
- Our virtue of the month is Foresight. We spend time each Merry Monday talking about what this looks like and sounds like (for example: thinking ahead, “If I do that, then this will happen..”).
- Conferences are this week on Tuesday, November 28th, and Thursday, November 30th from 3-6 p.m.
- Bridge to Wonderland - On Saturday, December 2, join us for the MACS 2023 Bridge to Wonderland parade float: "The Star" live nativity. You may dress as an animal, angel, or star and join us at the Chippewa County courthouse between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. The parade starts at 6:00 p.m. Small children may ride on the float but you may wish to bring your own wagon. Thanks to MACS Home and School (HandS) for organizing the details for this fun community event. Call the central office with any questions!
- HandS is hosting a [CRAFT night](#) on November 30th in the St. Charles cafeteria. They will be decorating animal crafts for students and families who want to walk with the float in the Christmas parade on Saturday, December 2nd.

- [MACS Giving Tree Project](#) begins on Monday, November 27th. Students can bring in a dollar to choose an ornament on the tree by the office. This ornament can be a gift or can go on your tree at home. Thank you for your support of the less fortunate in our MACS community. The Giving Tree Project ends on December 20th.
- - We are celebrating [Holy Spirit Spirit Week](#) from December 4th through December 8th, which is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (when Mary was conceived).
- Attention current and potential MACS 3K, 4K, and Kindergarten families: Please remember to sign-up for the Soup Supper event on Wednesday, November 29th from 5-7 pm. [Click here](#) and use the QR code to register for this event.
- Chippewa Steele will be coming to read to 3K - 2nd Grade on December 5th and December 7th.
- SC Christmas Concert will be December 12th, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- SC and HG have a Mission Day coming up on December 15th to help support the Giving Tree Project. Students will be able to wear non-uniforms with a donation to the Giving Tree. We will be supporting a mission each trimester.
- 24-25 4K Changes: 4K next year will be moving to ALL day 4K. All programs at SC will start at 7:20-2:30 p.m. like the rest of SC. More details to follow.

### **Holy Ghost Grades 3-5 Principal Gwen Doyle**

#### **Present:**

Our virtue of the month is foresight. We spend time each Terrific Tuesday talking about what this looks like and sounds like (for example: praying before decisions, making a list). Beginning this week, we will be creating a path around the school with "PAWS" for virtues. Teachers will recognize students' virtuous behavior and students will place paws on the path each week with the goal of reaching around the school.

#### **Review:**

The students are learning the new Mission statement, one section at a time. So far we have learned: "Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral formation."

Parent Teacher Conferences were on October 24th and 26th. Highlights included slideshows for each student by Mrs. Ericksen, MAPS data shared from all teachers, "What to work on at home" by the 3rd grade teachers, and "Here's the virtues we're working on" tailored to each student in Mrs. Rogers' class. We also greatly appreciated the meals provided by HandS parents.

Student Council has been hard at work! They have recently implemented two kindness encouragement ideas: One is a puzzle by the rear entrance that reminds students of the benefits of being kind, the second is a "kindness challenge" we are running November 14-16 in which the students each get a unique challenge (21 challenges in each classroom) to accomplish before the end of the day on Thursday. Examples include writing a thank you to a teacher or helping with a chore at home. If we fill up the jar, there will be a special thank you on Friday!

#### **Looking ahead:**

In second trimester, every teacher will email every students' family every six weeks. We will be working on improving the quality and consistency of our communication and feedback to parents considering the key components of student wellbeing outlined in our mission: intellectual, spiritual, physical and moral.

After Christmas, teachers at Holy Ghost are going to start reviewing and refining our grading standards in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

Events coming up:

**November 27th** - Giving Tree Begins (students can purchase \$1 ornaments for our "mission"; more info coming this week!)

**December 2nd** - Pancakes with Santa @ McDonell Commons 9:30-11a.m.

**December 4-8th** - Holy Spirit Spirit Week!

**December 12th** - Santa's Workshop for students (students purchase gifts for their families; more info coming)

**December 19th** - Holy Ghost Christmas Concert @ 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

### **Notre Dame/McDonell Grades 6-12 Principal Eric Wedemeyer**

#### **Support our Troops**

McDonell high school and Notre Dame middle school concluded their participation in the 15th annual Support our Troops Care Package Drive organized by the YMCA and Leinenkugel's Brewing Company. Items were dropped off and collected by McDonell (table set up in Commons) until Friday, November 10. Items were then gathered and care packages put together and sent to service members stationed all around the world in time for Christmas.

#### **Spaghetti Spectacular Veterans performance**

At our annual Spaghetti Spectacular fundraiser, a group from the middle school choir performed a short medley of songs in honor of our Veterans. The performance was put together and directed by our Choir instructor Mrs. Annette Hunt

#### **Hold/Lockdown drill**

On Thursday, Oct. 26 McDonell and Notre Dame conducted a Hold/Lockdown drill. Local law enforcement aided in the drill. In compliance with state requirements both schools will hold another drill in the spring.

#### **End of First Trimester**

The first trimester ended on November 17, just before the Thanksgiving break. The high school modified schedules on both Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17 to accommodate all classes preparing for their final exams and the exams themselves.

#### **Giving Tree collections**

Each Friday during Advent, our students will have the opportunity to wear sweats along with our normal Macks Spirit wear day. Students would need to pay \$3 dollars to be allowed to wear their sweats with all the money collected to go towards our annual Giving Tree. Snacks are also sold in the Main Office to collect additional funds for the cause.

### **Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt**

#### **Key Activities**

- Virtue Initiative
  - This month is the month of Foresight
  - Planning for the next tier of virtues for 24-25 (virtues for well-being and the stories of the Saints)
- Math transformation
  - Math teams met and listened to a few publishing representatives
  - Went over what math could look like in a Catholic Liberal Arts school, such as...
    - See math as a humanities subject not mechanical - God's beauty and plan
    - Reveal the relationship between mathematics and creation
    - Contextualize through storytelling (application, saints, Catholic history/mathematicians, etc. )
    - Translate theories into application

- Understand that mathematics is an unbelievably effective universal language that describes, models, and interprets natural phenomena.
  - Teach socratically through problem solving
  - Textbook is not used as the primary instruction
  - increase ability to retain mathematical facts
  - Everything done in the classroom (homework, notes) should have an aesthetic - responsible, careful, respectful of math.
- Accreditation
    - Finishing up on surveys (commission will get theirs soon)
    - Next step for December: Complete formal accreditation review by uploading findings and self-review scores

**Student Support Services Coordinator Diane Hietpas**

- Tabled