



SACRED HEART
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
EST. 1956

Sacred Heart Cathedral School Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Date: October 23, 2023

School Mission: *"We will live our faith, love God's family, and learn for the future."*

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with a prayer for children, setting a reflective tone for the discussion.

Welcome and Introductions

New members were warmly welcomed to the Advisory School Board. Each shared a bit about their family and their excitement to serve the Sacred Heart community.

School Updates

The board discussed recent transitions in leadership within the preschool program. The new Preschool Director brings a strong background in early childhood education and a deep love for fostering a nurturing, faith-filled learning environment. The transition has been positive and well-received by the community.

Administration also highlighted the growing connection between the preschool and elementary programs, emphasizing mentorship, peer tutoring, and shared community events that strengthen the bridge between age groups.

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) recently elected new officers who will lead service initiatives and community-building efforts throughout the school year.

Admissions Update

Admissions for the upcoming school year are underway, with strong interest across multiple grade levels. Entrance testing for Kindergarten and Lower Elementary students will take place in January.

A new assessment tool is being implemented to provide a clearer understanding of student readiness and growth.

The continuous enrollment process will continue, ensuring a smooth transition for returning families.

Financial Update

Information was shared regarding upcoming financial assistance opportunities available to Catholic families through diocesan and regional programs. Tuition rates for the next academic year will be announced following diocesan review and approval.

Development Update

The *Heart for Playgrounds Challenge* is currently underway, with a generous matching-gift opportunity helping the school reach its fundraising goal.

Several community events were highlighted, including:

- Fall Festival — A family celebration featuring games, crafts, and community fun.
- Trunk-or-Treat — An evening of festive fellowship for all families.
- Taste of Sacred Heart — Scheduled for November 8, this community social event brings together families, local restaurants, and live entertainment in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

General Discussion

Board members discussed a variety of topics related to school life and culture, including the continued focus on positive discipline rooted in partnership, communication, and formation of the whole child. Administration emphasized the goal of fostering growth, compassion, and responsibility in students, rather than relying solely on punitive measures.

The board also discussed maintaining a strong Catholic identity in daily school practices and the importance of modeling faith and respect in all interactions.

Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded in prayer, giving thanks for the school community and its shared mission to educate hearts and minds in faith.

Date: September 25, 2025

Mission: *We will live our faith, love God's family, and learn for the future.*

Opening Prayer & Welcome: J. Wakley

School Updates

- **Student Leadership**

Sacred Heart has combined Student Council and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) to expand leadership opportunities for middle school students. Eighth graders are serving as this year's chairs, while seventh graders will apply in the spring.

Administration and the NJHS Committee are working together to make leadership roles more meaningful, ensuring students serve as ambassadors at school events and Masses.

- **Flu Clinic**

The on-campus flu vaccination clinic was held successfully. Plans for next year include scheduling older grades first to help the process run more smoothly.

- **Middle School Leadership in Action**

Administration continues to encourage middle school students to serve as role models across campus through "buddy" programs and service opportunities during school Mass and community events.

Financial Update

- **Tuition Review**

The Diocese will announce tuition guidelines later this fall. The application for new families will open after Fall Break.

To maintain transparency and good stewardship, an external financial expert is working with school leadership to review the school's fiscal status and help communicate future tuition planning clearly to families.

- **Education Freedom Scholarship (EFS)**

Families who previously received EFS funding will be prioritized for renewal. Application details will be shared once the state releases updated information.

Development Report

- **Playground Campaign**

The school's current focus is a playground improvement campaign with a goal of raising \$250,000. Fun classroom competitions are underway to encourage participation and community spirit.

- **Taste of Sacred Heart**

The beloved "Taste of Sacred Heart" event will take place on **November 8, 2025**, with a goal of 200 attendees—growing from last year's success.

Board Membership & Committees

- **New Members**

Recommendations were made for several new board members to broaden the group's representation and expertise.

- **Parent Engagement Opportunities**

To strengthen collaboration between families and the school, several subcommittees will be established and open to parent participation. These include:

- Host Families (welcoming new families)
 - Bridge Committee (connecting preschool and K-8 families)
 - Security Committee
 - Advancement and Auction Committees
 - Strategic Planning and Bylaws Review Committees
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General Topics & Discussion

- **5th Grade Schedule Enhancements**

Adjustments to the fifth-grade schedule have improved instructional time and balance between core subjects and enrichment classes. Lunch has been extended to 30 minutes, and an additional PE session has been added. The schedule continues to align with state

recommendations for academic instruction.

- **Cell Phone Policy**

Administration is planning an educational event featuring the documentary *Screenagers* to support healthy technology use and encourage a “Wait Until 8th” approach. The current policy remains: phones are to stay off and stored in backpacks during the school day.

- **Cafeteria Updates**

The school is exploring more nutritious snack and treat options for the cafeteria menu.

Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting will continue updates on development, board expansion, and upcoming school events.
