SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
EST. 1956

School Board Meeting Summary
September 24, 2026

The Sacred Heart Cathedral School Board met on September 24, 2026, to discuss parent feedback, school climate and communication, administrative and organizational updates, and regular Board business.

Parent Feedback and Uniform Policy

Parents shared concerns about recent uniform enforcement, particularly skirt-length requirements and how concerns were addressed with students and families. The Board and administration affirmed the importance of appropriate standards while emphasizing respectful, consistent, and minimally disruptive enforcement.

Administration is reviewing current practices and will implement a FACTS/RenWeb notification process after Fall Break to shift uniform communication from teachers to administration and parents. Other proposed adjustments include allowing uniform shorts for boys as part of the dress uniform and permitting religious bracelets for girls. Administration will continue gathering faculty input and, in consultation with Father Michael, will communicate updated procedures after Fall Break.

Communication, Parent Involvement, Stability, and Catholic Identity

Recent listening sessions and community feedback identified four priorities:

- Proactive, direct, and consistent communication
- Meaningful opportunities for parents to contribute their gifts and talents
- Greater consistency and stability following leadership and organizational transitions
- Continued commitment to the school's Catholic identity and mission

These priorities will guide ongoing work with faculty, families, the School Board, and parish leadership. The Board also reviewed a parent communication survey with 79 responses. Although focused on communication, the survey included broader school feedback, which the administration will continue reviewing for follow-up.

Academics and School Programs

The elementary Learning Lab now provides academic intervention and enrichment, and Hispanic Heritage Month activities are underway. The Diocese of Knoxville's Cognia accreditation visit is scheduled for February 23–24, 2027.

Administration plans to establish advisory committees for the Auction, Building Improvements, Care of Creation, Advancement, and Family Ambassadors. The seventh-grade trip will now be a Chattanooga and Nashville experience focused on Tennessee history, Civil War history, and Catholic heritage, replacing the Williamsburg trip after review of cost and curricular alignment.

Advancement and Endowment

The Annual Fund will support Care of Creation initiatives, academic enhancements, and faculty support, including bonuses recognizing faculty dedication and contributions. The Board also discussed strengthening long-term financial sustainability through endowment growth, continued financial planning, and preparation for future capital needs.

PTM and Community Life

The Parent-Teacher Ministry continues supporting faculty, staff, students, and families through community-building and appreciation activities, including Facilities Appreciation Day, the uniform closet, and additional faculty appreciation opportunities.

The Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat will be held on October 23, and Taste of Sacred Heart on November 13 will include trivia and emphasize fellowship and community building.

Admissions

Applications for the 2027–2028 school year open on October 14. Tours and Eagle for a Day experiences are underway, and interest in the Little Eagles program remains strong, particularly among siblings of current students.

School Board Business

The Board received seventeen applications for Board service. A nominating committee will be formed to review applications and make recommendations according to Board bylaws and procedures. The Board also approved adding the Annual Fund Chair as a non-voting advisory member.

Looking Ahead

School leadership will share the listening-session themes, communicate and implement updated uniform procedures after Fall Break, gather faculty input on enforcement, expand parent involvement opportunities, and continue strengthening communication, trust, stability, and Catholic identity. The Board will also form the nominating committee and begin reviewing applications.

The School Board and administration thank the parents, faculty, staff, clergy, and community members who contribute to Sacred Heart Cathedral School. Together, they remain committed to supporting students' academic, spiritual, social, and emotional growth while advancing the school's Catholic mission and identity.