

Saint Thomas the Apostle Board of Education Minutes

October 10, 2024 (6:00pm to 7:30pm)

Opening Prayer - Fr. Jim

Pastor Report -

Soul of the Mission: St. Thomas

Father Jim comments on the Soul of St. Thomas, Fr. Jim along with many others have always been deeply invested in the mission of St. Thomas, shaping it with purpose and passion. The soul of this organization has always been rooted in the belief that every person who walks through our doors brings a unique gift. Regardless of experience, we've embraced those who are committed to advancing St. Thomas to the next level—and it's truly paying off.

There's a special joy in witnessing individuals grow and thrive within this community. Their blossoming is what makes St. Thomas the vibrant place it is today. The dream of shaping this school into something extraordinary continues to evolve, fueled by the dedication of everyone involved.

The heart of our mission is seeing the people of St. Thomas—students, staff, and families—grow and flourish within this community.

We've hit our financial goal, and now we're moving on to the next phase: the Wish List.

Upcoming Celebration:

Father Jim invites all to join us for the formal celebration of the St. Thomas Auction this weekend at Sunday Mass on **October 13th**.

Intentional Communication:

In both the school and parish, it's essential to communicate with intention. Often, we feel we're being talked at, but it's far more meaningful when we engage in conversations where we're truly *talking to* one another. Whether we're speaking to adults, children, or staff, we must approach each interaction with purpose, making sure we speak as we truly mean it.

Mission Moment -

NO MISSION MOMENT - Pat Cahlaar scheduled for next month's meeting

Visitor Concerns - None (Visitors Dismissed)

Partner Organization Reports

Finance (Carla Grant/Mark-absent)

- Met with the General Contractor on early development childhood center. Bids came in very close which is great news for the renovation! There will be room to spend on some of the contingency plans. Demo starts 11/25.
- Next Projects - Start budgeting now... Expectations for 2025/2026 ECC operating budget to be solidified by Jan 2025.
- Financial summary - looks messy to start but will even out over time.
- Often under budget on after school care but will even as year progresses.

Marketing Refresh (David)

- Continuing to solidify a consistent message of branding/logo for St. Thomas education and Parish. Many elements were cleaned up to create a more structured and formal mark. Traditional/Scholarly Look
- Father Jim has final approval on the logo.
- Signiish for ECC

Foundation

- Auction went very well, very successful. Exceeded goal by approximately \$25,000.
- Ticket sales on point
- Tuition angel did very well.
- Continuing to build on the plan to market the ECC - preschool environment.
- 280 total people in attendance for the auction.

Boosters

- Picnic on the park was a great success. Meeting next week Wednesday (10/16) to reach back to those interested and talk about more members. Tailgate went well, good turnout, everyone asking when its next.
- Major goal is to get in front of more people than in the past. Brainstorming continuing to take place.
- League fees will be billing 3rd and 4th graders next week.

Home and School (Genevieve Boyle)

- No Updates (absent)

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds (Coleman)

- Kneelers are starting to get very worn. Trying to figure out how to segment a replacement for the church. Need to better understand costs.
- Roof is going to be completely done Mon/Tues next week.
- Proposal required for finance committee to understand the curb removal.

Marketing (Mark)

- Refer to the written report and refresh above.

Policy & Planning (Molly Kennedy)

- No Updates

Mission Effectiveness (James Wilson)

- Vocation report (need to review)

Committee on Directors (Meredith Maczka)

- Recruiting - continuing to build out for committees. Constantly recruiting.
- Trying to build strategy around seats that are moving.

Principal/Assistant Principal Report -

- Met ECC fundraising goal. 1.4M goal approx 25k over. Praying more comes in as we move into the new ECC we are going to continue to need \$ for the kids.
- ETC (East Town) - Ryan toured the ETC at St. Thomas, trying to get the message out to more people. Building good will
- Lost two (2) families over the past couple weeks.
- Hosting additional networks in association with ETC.
- Offering up a sign up sheet to recess for those concerned parents.
- GRPD came in to discuss the new building, their only concern was that a bit more trash was going to be around.

Board Deliberations

- Reviewed St. Thomas Strategic Plan. Vision metrics, strategies, tactic suggestions and owners.
- Discussed Test Scores and how to read the overall St. Thomas scores comparatively. Growth is most important.
- Hardest area to push growth is top performing students.
- **Recommendation for Katie Doyle** to come in and review the data around students' knowledge levels.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

- Motion made from Coleman motioned (10/10) to approve the minutes from our September meeting, the motion was seconded by Mary. All were in favor, none opposed.

Concluding Prayer

Attendance

14 Voting Directors:

Chair, Brian Hillary: Present

Vice Chair, Elissa Williams: *Absent*

Secretary, Jake Smith: Present

Building and Grounds Committee chair, Coleman Baar: Present

Finance and Fiscal Development Committee chair, Mark Fjelsted: *Absent*

Marketing Committee chair, David Shankins: *Absent*

Mission Effectiveness Committee chair, James Wilson: *Absent*

Policy & Planning Committee chair: Molly Kennedy: Present

Board of Directors Committee chair: Meredith Maczka: Present

At Large Member, Michelle Anderson: Present

At Large Member, Jamie McCabe: Present

At Large Member, Mary Vonk: Present

Ex Officio Members and/or guests

Pastor, Fr. Jim: Present

Principal, Ryan Corcoran: Present

Jermiah Sluggett, Present

Development & Outreach chair, Betsy Edgerton: *Absent*

Financial, Carla Grant: Present

Home and School, Genevieve Boyle: Present

Boosters: Ashley Emmerson: Present

Visiting, none