

Saint Thomas the Apostle Board of Education Minutes

January 9, 2025 (6:00pm to 8:00pm)

Opening Prayer - Brian Hillary let Prayer

Pastor Report -

Father Jim was not present.

Mission Moment - Don

how we help all kids:

Our intake process for new families focuses on communication and adapting to each child's unique needs and strengths. We assess where each child starts, sometimes adjusting grade requirements, and aim to be intentional about supporting both new arrivals and existing students.

We currently have eight (8) staff members, with an emphasis on early development to minimize the need for additional support as children progress. We're being more intentional about integrating with staff to better manage an increasing number of students. For 2024, we have 81 kids, and 82 projected for 2025. While we lost some 8th graders, we've gained others to stabilize the program.

Each student has a detailed spreadsheet tracking their learning development, alongside sensory rooms to support individualized needs. Our pull-out and push-in programs are still in place. A major focus is preparing 8th graders for high school—meeting with parents, connecting with high schools (e.g., CC and WC), and creating transition plans. We're working closely with parents to ensure they're ready for this next step.

Unfortunately, we have no plans to expand the ESS program in the future. However, we would like to grow the enrichment program.

Transition Phase:

Staff will communicate grades and quarterly reports for each child. Every student has a "red file" to track their progress and advance to the next level. We conduct "handoff meetings" to ensure continuity of support. Our goal is to create creative opportunities that provide a safe space for all kids to thrive.

Currently, 25% of the students at St. Thomas receive support from ESS.

Strategic Plannings:

Review of what was asked of us and how we are measuring progress. Ran a SWOT (strength/weakness/opportunity/threats) analysis amongst the board; see below for analysis:

- Strength -
 - Overall Community health of St. Thomas
 - transparency, good reports of how things are going
 - mission statement
 - Great Staff.
 - Giving of St. Thomas (ie ECC and Auction),
 - Chappel Daily.
 - Teachers involvement

- Weakness
 - parking
 - congestion- building space limited.
 - Getting more volunteers is a struggle.
 - Communication- reading.
 - Security around our school.
 - People who aren't Catholic understand what is being taught.
- Opportunity -
 - Early Childhood Center strengthening pipeline of students
 - Ft Jims Departure
 - parents stepping up to help lead (another voice).
 - Letting more people know what we do (marketing, points of pride)
- Threat -
 - Building next door -
 - Ft Jims Departure
 - volunteers stepping up
 - fear of security.
 - Parking lot issues.
 - Staffing for ECC (are we overlooking this)
 - Betsys retirement.
 - Electronics (ie phones/ipads/etc growing in the schools.
 - Economy/Cost around being able to live.

Budget & Approvals - voting on 2025/2026 budget. NOTE: Education did grant additional funds for education foundation.

- Approval for tuition increases: Molly made motion to increase, Mark second, all in favor - **passed**.
- Ashley Approval: Coleman - made motion to join board, Jake seconded, all in favor - **passed**. Ashley is officially at large member of the board.

Visitor Concerns - No visitors in attendance

Partner Organization Reports

Education Foundation (Betsy Edgerton)

- Education breakfast 1/28, inspirational talk.

Home and School (Genevieve Boyle)

- Catholic schools last week for Jan
 - Each of the days has its own theme (celebrating community)
 - Inviting older parishioners into the building as a chance to build relationships
- Helper Helper Platform introduction
- Family Dance end of catholic schools week

Boosters (Ashley)

- Running rumble with the Rams (meeting next week thursday)
- Euchre tournament upcoming TBD (maybe Feb, possible knights of columbus)
- Mines 5/9 Golf Tournament

Committee Reports

Finance (Carla Grant/Mark)

- No Reports

Building and Grounds (Coleman Baar)

- No Reports

Finance (Mark)

- Refer to the written report and refresh above.

Policy & Planning (Molly Kennedy)

- No Reports

Mission Effectiveness (James Wilson)

- No Reports

Committee on Directors (Meredith Maczka)

- No Reports

Development and Outreach (Betsy Edgerton)

- Education breakfast 1/28, inspirational talk.

Marketing and Communications (David Shankin)

- Awaiting identity refresh
- New family booklet (meeting set for next week)

Principal's Report (Ryan Corcoran)

- Please read report out online

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

- Elissa minutes 12/12/24: approval of board minutes: Coleman motioned to approve, David seconded - **passed**.

Concluding Prayer

Ryan Closes w/ 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: Present

Marketing Committee chair, David Shankin: Present

Mission Effectiveness Committee chair, James Wilson: *Absent*

Policy & Planning Committee chair: Molly Kennedy: Present

Board of Directors Committee chair: Meredith Maczka: *Absent*

At Large Member, Michelle Anderson: *Absent*

At Large Member, Jamie McCabe: *Absent*

At Large Member, Mary Vonk: *Absent*

Ex Officio Members and/or guests

Pastor, Fr. Jim: *Absent*

Principal, Ryan Corcoran: Present

Jermiah Sluggett, *Absent*

Development & Outreach chair, Betsy Edgerton: *Absent*

Financial, Carla Grant: *Absent*

Home and School, Genevieve Boyle: Present

Boosters: Ashley Emmerson: Present

Visiting, none