

BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD MEETING

April 16, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Admin Board Room

Opening Prayer	Mark DeHart
Non-Voting Members/Guests Present	Leah Gibson, Heather Mueller, Adam Liberty, Jason Mueller, Kathy Harris, Nolan Trafton, Danielle Watson, Christina McGill, Karen Sylvester
Meeting Minutes	Jenn made the motion to approve the March minutes. Leslie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
Public Comment Period	Saint Francis student, Evan Cass, was invited to speak with the board regarding his Optimist Speech. He was unable to attend the meeting, but did report that he will advance to the Regional Optimist Speech in Canada. Karen Sylvester, Prevention Specialist, provided the board with parent and student support materials that will be handed out to every student in Yellowstone County, as well as surrounding counties. It has taken 3 years to get the funding to complete the project. She was very appreciative of Billings Catholic School students, who helped put the folders together. While observing them, she remarked how kind and accepting they were of each other.

FOUNDATION REPORT

BCSF President	Adam: The Foundation has reviewed their list of nominations for new board members. They hope to add up to five new members. The 2025-2026 budget draft has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and will be voted on at the June board meeting. There were a few legislative updates that would affect BCS and the Foundation, including the approval of a measure to allow credit cards for raffle ticket purchases. This will take affect July 1st. Mayfair is coming up quickly. Table sponsorships have exceeded expectations, and \$85k has been pledged for the Special Project.
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BCS President	Andrew: Andrew asked the board to review the most recent President's Report at their leisure. There are a few employment postings, as Mark Miller is moving out of state and Ana Mayorga is moving to Custer, MT. Andrew thanked Father Leo for his letter to the community. ECE teachers went to Saint Francis to observe the kindergarten teachers for a day. Two staff members from ECE were able to attend a summit in Missoula. Saint Francis students raised \$2600 for the "Call for Kids" fundraiser for Intermountain Health. Tours at Saint Francis are in full swing. 9th and 10th grade students at Central participated in a day of service, which included raking leaves, sorting items at the Rescue mission, and playing BINGO with senior citizens. 10 staff members and teachers will attend the NCEA conference in Orlando next week. Andrew met with the parishes and they agreed to increase their annual contribution to the schools to \$695k. The solar panel project for Saint Francis is being reviewed by the diocese for their approval.
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Diocese Update	Christina: Christina thanked Andrew for agreeing to be part of an advisory board and praised the schools for an excellent visit with NCEA CEO, Mr. Steven Cheeseman. The diocese will have their retreat in Pony, MT in June.
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LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Learning/Reflection	Andrew: Andrew shared an educational opportunity with the board that would partner with Boston College to develop skills and strategies as a school board. He asked if anyone is interested in participating, let him know before the next board meeting.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Next Meeting: May 13	Leah: The committee reviewed the 2025-2026 budget draft and will vote on it in May. It details the revenue sources, as well as expenses. Currently, a deficit of \$19k is projected. Because of that deficit, the administration is discussing moving the business and Foundation offices to available spaces at Saint Francis and Central. St. Patrick's Co Cathedral has asked that they move by summer 2026, but Andrew is proposing this occur summer 2025. He explained this would save up to \$60k annually. He asked for a motion to approve the change, as it has a significant impact to the budget. - Peter made the motion to approve the administration offices moving to available space at current facilities. Jenn seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Andrew also explained that, in order to cut expenses, he is considering eliminating the route and loop bussing for students. Sarpy has difficulty finding drivers and there have been service interruptions. The cost to BCS is nearly \$100k, but only \$50k is recouped from the fees charged to the riders. Andrew asked for authorization to negotiate the loop and route bus contract, up to and including terminating the contract. After a brief discussion regarding the impact, - Christine made the motion to authorize Andrew to negotiate the bus contract, up to and including terminating the contract. Mark DeBourg seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
Tech Committee Next Meeting:	Joanna: Joanna is working with Apple on the iPad replacement schedule. TelNet was awarded the safety upgrade project.
Governance & Nomination Committee Next Meeting: Interviews on April 22nd	Jenn: The committee will interview 5 candidates for three available positions on April 22nd. There will be a formal farewell for departing members, but Jenn wanted to let the board know Mark DeBourg, Tyler Wiltgen, and Rick McCann are ending their service to the board. Board Chair and Vice Chair nominations will be accepted at the May meeting. If anyone is thinking of nominating another member, they are encouraged to speak with that individual before making the nomination.

SEM Committee Next Meeting:	Kathy: Kathy shared an enrollment update. She is optimistic that the enrollment goals will be met. Typically, there is an increase from 8th grade to 9th grade, as students transfer from other schools. More than 800 students have completed commitment agreements. Cornerbooth Marketing provided their analytic report for March. There appears to be a stronger reaction to Facebook and Instagram versus YouTube or LinkedIn. They are producing a Mayfair video and the current social media campaign will run through August. The grotto honoring Shel Hanser and Jim Hawbaker is complete. However, the statue of Mary arrived damaged. Kathy hopes to have it replaced by the end of April.
Facilities Committee Next Meeting: May 1st	Joe: The Facilities Committee toured the Billings Gazette to determine if it would be a good fit to move the high school to. The consensus was that it would be too expensive and need too many upgrades.
Mission & Catholic Identity Next Meeting:	Danielle/Andrew There are no updates at this time.
Chair Report:	Joe reminded everyone that Mayfair is May 10th and the board retreat with the Foundation is June 18th.
Closing Prayer	Father Steve

Regular Meeting Adjourned: 5:08 p.m.

Executive Session: NO

Next Board Meeting: May 21st 4:00 pm.

Name	8/21	9/18	10/16	11/20	12/?	1/15	2/19	3/19	4/16	5/21	6/18
Jenn Beckwith	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Lisa Bruno	E	X	E	X	NA	X	X	X	E		
Mark DeBourg	X	X	X	X	NA	X	E	X	X		
Mark DeHart	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Peter Hamilton	X	A	X	X	NA	X	E	X	X		
Christine Harris	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Rick McCann	A	E	X	X	NA	X	X	X	E		
Andrew McDonald	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Leslie Schaff	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Joe Sylvester	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	X		
Tyler Wiltgen	X	X	X	E	NA	X	X	X	E		
Ron Yates	X	X	X	X	NA	X	X	X	E		
Fr. Steve Zabrocki	X	X	X	X	NA	E	X	X	X		