

Saint Thomas the Apostle Board of Education Minutes

May 8, 2025 (6:00pm to 8:00pm)

Opening Prayer - Father Jim

Pastor Report – Fr. Jim

- **Final Address:** July 1 will mark Fr. Jim's final day, concluding 32 years of ministry that began alongside Dave.
- **Reflections:** He presented two packets highlighting lessons learned throughout his service.
- **Leadership Partnerships:** Fr. Jim has worked with three principals—David, Suzy, and now Ryan—each of whom has brought strong leadership and passion, leaving a solid foundation for the school.
- **Transition:** The Bishop will announce Fr. Jim's successor this weekend. Fr. Jim's primary goal is to ensure the transition is seamless and the new pastor fits well within the community.

Mission Moment – Dave Faber

- **Board Stewardship:** Sustainability is not possible without stewardship; board members play a critical role.
- **Enrollment Strength:**
 - PreK–8 enrollment is at its highest level in 8 years and the strongest within the Alliance.
 - With the new Early Childhood Center (ECC), space limitations are being lifted, paving the way for growth.
 - Lowest rate of “no-shows” across the diocese.
 - Average class size is **20** (research shows <15 does not provide the best learning experience).
- **Parent Feedback:** In a survey of 95 parents (20% of school families), **84% would highly recommend St. Thomas.**
- **Faith Connection:** Enrollment trends align with baptism numbers, showing the parish and school are growing together.
- **Academic Performance:** St. Thomas achieved **high growth across all four key academic categories.**

- **Resources:** *Catholic Schools for a New Era (Chapter 4)*—Summit materials (8 years archived online) will serve as a guide to hold the board accountable.
 - **Closing Message:** Catholic schools thrive because **Christ is present**. Be ever attentive, helping students hear and grow in their relationship with Jesus.
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Committee & Partner Organization Reports

Board Committee

- Full slate of candidates to be voted on in May 2025 for next year's board.

Education Foundation (Betsy Edgerton)

- Basketball team heading to states (absent from meeting).

Home & School (Genevieve Boyle)

- Absent (OOO).

Boosters (Ashley)

- Golf Outing scheduled for 5/9 with 98 participants (goal: 100).
- Euchre event was a success with strong participation.

Finance (Carla Grant / Mark)

- Current year coming in approx. **\$50k over budget**.
- Missing Title IV funds (public school assistance).
- Lost 3 families unexpectedly.
- Textbooks and athletics over budget.
- Next year's budget looks solid and conservative.

Building & Grounds (Coleman Baar)

- Limited progress this year on accessibility goals.

- Major project planned: moving the front office (target Summer 2026).
- ECC patio: considering guard barriers (e.g., raised flower beds).

Policy & Planning (Molly Kennedy)

- No updates.

Mission Effectiveness (James Wilson)

- Upcoming event: Tierney Speaker on 9/17.

Committee on Directors (Meredith Maczka)

- Succession planning for Elissa Williams.
- Email vote to be sent for upcoming board member approvals.

Development & Outreach (Betsy Edgerton)

- On track with initiatives.
- 4th quarter newsletter releasing this month.
- Celebrating the school's **100-year anniversary** and preschool opening.

Marketing & Communications (David Shankin)

- New signage updates.

Principal's Report – Ryan Corcoran

- Report posted online for board review.
 - Proposed new tardy policy—please review.
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Approvals

- **Previous Meeting Minutes (3/13/24):** Approved (Motion: Baar; Second: Anderson).
- **Board Member Elections:**
 - Brian Hillary – Board Chair (Motion: Baar; Second: Jeremiah).
 - James Wilson – Mission Effectiveness Chair (Motion: Anderson; Second: Jeremiah).
 - Jammie McCabe – Member At Large (Motion: Anderson; Second: Jeremiah).
 - Mark Vonk – Member At Large (Motion: Anderson; Second: Jeremiah).

Concluding Prayer

Ryan Closes w/ prayer

Attendance

14 Voting Directors:

Chair, Brian Hillary: Present

Vice Chair, Elissa Williams: Present

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: Present

Policy & Planning Committee chair: Molly Kennedy: *Absent*

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: Present

Financial, Carla Grant: Present

Home and School, Genevieve Boyle: Present

Boosters: Ashley Emmerson: Present

Visiting, none