**St. Catherine of Siena Board of Catholic Education**

***12/3/2024 -Minutes***

**Opening Prayer**: Board Members prayer

*Present*: Molly Geiger, Mike Jacks, John David Kimes, Mike Ruwe, Michael Schuh

*Absent*: Jenny Collopy, Colleen Copenhaver

**Evaluation/Planning Committee Report**

*Mike Ruwe*

*BOCE Meeting Attendance*

St. C BOCE Constitution: Section 7. Removal of Members

*“Any member who is absent from three (3) regular meetings in a year without a valid*

*excuse will be removed.”*

Because of the creation of the St. C Combined Committee, the 2024-2025 BOCE meeting schedule and Combined Committee meeting schedule has been inconsistent. For this reason, until June 2025, the BOCE will suspend the portion of Section 7 of the Constitution that applies to member attendance.

*Closing Prayer Schedule*

October Mike Ruwe

December Mike Jacks

January Molly Geiger

March Colleen Copenhaver

April John David Kimes

May Michael Schuh

**Public Relations/Marketing Committee Report**

*Jenny Collopy, Colleen Copenhaver, Molly Geiger*

**Bellevue Tree Lighting Celebration, 11/30/24**

-Molly Geiger initiated contact with the city of Bellevue, secured permission for St. C to have a

booth at this event, and organized the craft (creating a Christmas ornament) supplied by St. C PTO that children completed at the booth.

-Molly Geiger, Jade Gosney, Mike Ruwe represented St. C at the event

-St. C flyers were distributed

-we spoke to several interested families and felt it was a good way to spread the word about St.

C school and church

-At the celebration, Molly & Jade were interviewed by Campbell Media (Campbell County

community access). Molly & Jade spoke about the benefits of attending St. C! Their

segment starts here [Campbell Media](https://campbellmedia.org/video/59376/) at 2:44 and ends 3:45

-special thanks to Molly for all her hard work to make this event happen

-Molly will keep contact with the city of Bellevue; we will host a booth at the Bellevue Winter

Carnival in February 2025, if possible

-Molly will investigate possible Newport events  
-Mike Jacks suggested also contacting the city of Dayton about events; Molly will do so

**Policy Review Committee Report**

*Michael Schuh*

-John David asked about any updates to policies since the BOCE’s last in-depth discussion about

this in 2023

* Mike Jacks: any new policies or revisions of existing policies are waiting for the Bishop’s review
* Michael will double check past notes and will bring to our attention anything in need of our attention

**Principal’s Report (Mike Jacks)**

-In light of the potential budget challenges for 2025-2026, Mike Jacks is doing all he can to

inspire positive morale among school faculty and staff.

-Parent are also concerned about potential budget challenges, and some parents have

contacted Mike Jacks about it.

-Mike Jacks has prepared three different options for the school to address budget concerns. He

will discuss these with Fr. Stef.

* To be clear, none of the current budgetary options involve closing the school.

-Michael Schuh and John David suggest an emphasis to Fr. Stef and to the Combined

Committee Chairs that the process for making these budget decisions are best done as soon

as possible. For example, a sixty-day or ninety-day plan.

-Mike Jacks has a meeting scheduled with Fr. Stef on 12/4/24. These issues will be discussed.

**Communication**

-There is a concern that the Combined Committee has many good ideas, but that there needs to

be clear communication about what actions are being done.

* On 12/2/24, Mike Ruwe emailed the Chairs of all the St. C Councils alerting them to recent BOCE activities, asking for updates from their councils, and asking about further actions. Mike will report back any feedback

-Mike Ruwe suggested that somehow the BOCE communicates with the Parish about the Open

House: send an email with an Open House flyer, asking parishioners to send flyers out

* Mike Ruwe will contact Deacon Henry about the best practice for contacting the parish.

**New Family Open House**

-Open House will be specifically for families *new* to St. C

- Switch the date of Open House to a Sunday, 1/12/24; 11:30am-1:30pm

* Michael Schuh: that conflicts with a St. C basketball league
* The Open House would require use of the gym
* {on 12/4/24 Michael Schuh contacted the organizer of the league to have the games

moved back that day to allow the Open House to happen}

-Mike Jacks: for the Open House

* Ask that BOCE members be present if possible
* Tables in the gym with representatives from the various parish organizations
* Student tour guides
* Maybe refreshments

-Marketing – Molly: can we put flyer and info on social media?

-What do we do well? What makes St. C unique?

* Mike Jacks:
  + yes, academics are important, but Catholic schools are about the holistic formation of students in the Catholic faith;
  + Catholic schools are in partnership with parents in the education of students

-John David: When is registration?

* Mike Jacks: formal registration is mid-January; however, it never closes. A student could register the day before school starts.

-Mike Ruwe: what if a student who is not Catholic wants to attend St. C?

* Mike Jacks: St. C welcomes students who are not Catholic; however, they must understand that the students will participate in all parts of the Catholic education

**Religious Education Report (John David Kimes)**

-Catechesis of the Good Shepard (CGS)

* Added additional class on Thursdays (because of demand and not enough catechists)
* CGS families who are not current parishioners will be invited to the Open House
* Because unsure if there will be a space for the Atrium next year, difficult to plan long-term

-Advent program after 10:00am mass on 12/1 went well

-Two weekends ago, Rite of Welcome for OCIA candidate

-Sacramental prep meetings

* 11/13 = First Communion prep
* 11/21 = Confirmation prep

-John David askes the group: if we hear any feedback about religious education, please pass on

to John David

**From Father Stef**

Last year, some members raised the question of whether or not groups other than American Heritage Girls could provide desserts at the fish fry…I spoke with Jean Hicks, and they are more than willing to give up some nights.  Jean emailed me yesterday, and they asked for the first three nights, leaving three other nights.  If school wants them (or Boosters or PTO), they are available.

* Molly asked if it would be possible for American Heritage Girls to intersperse the dates—say Boosters take the 2nd night, etc.
* Mike Ruwe will contact Fr. Stef about this

**Combined Committee**

Date of next Combined Committee meeting: 2/6/25

**PTO**

-Molly reports that PTO is planning a new Family Night Bingo for the end of Catholic Schools

Week

-Mike Ruwe: there are so many excellent events produced by the PTO – could the PTO create a

flyer highlighting all of the PTO events to be distributed at events such as the Open

House?

* Molly will bring this idea to the PTO

**Adjournment**

Next BOCE meeting: 1/7/25 BOCE

***Closing Prayer*:**

Mike Jacks