SCHOOL OF SAINT MARY

School of Saint Mary Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the 2026-2027 School of Saint Mary Advisory Council was held on September 15, 2026. Prior to the meeting, an Orientation Session was held for new members beginning at 6:15 PM. The official meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Chairman Randall Snapp presiding. The following 2026-2027 members were present:

Fr. Stuart Crevcoure	Randall Snapp	Margo Griffin
Fr. Vince Fernandez	Maria Anthamatten	Joby Wood
Ray Lewis	Erin Brock-Atwood	Jeff Reh
Eileen Ames	Mike Cawiezell	Jack Stagg
Sarah Edwards	Tim Dixon	

I. Call to Order and Welcome

- Meeting Called to order by 2025-2026 Chair, Randall Snapp

II. Opening Prayer and Formation — Fr. Stuart Crevcoure

Formation

- The God who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ is a personal God: "Our Father" who addresses each of his daughters and sons by name and calls him or her into a unique and unrepeatable kinship with God's own self. Jesus related to God as a trusting child to a loving parent, and he invited his disciples to do the same.
- The worldview of St. Francis was formed by this Christian understanding of God as personal and of God's creation as reflective of the divine image. Francis saw the world as a vast network of concrete interpersonal relationships. Everything and everyone was born of the same divine parent. Therefore, everything and everyone was brother or sister to every other creature and a distinctive individual of priceless worth. The late 13th century Franciscan philosopher and theologian, John Duns Scotus, built on Francis's insight by arguing that a thing can only be fully known when we grasp its individuality and uniqueness, what he called its "this-ness." (John Duns Scotus, *Early Oxford Lecture on Individuation*).
- Like St. Francis's approach to everyone he encountered, Franciscan education is based on love of the human person and on reverence for his or her God-given dignity. It values each individual as a gift. It sees that person as a son or daughter of "Our Father," to be treated not as a commodity, a number or an object, but as a beloved brother or sister.

III. Previously Approved by Email August Meeting Minutes

- August Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved via email prior to this meeting

IV. Pastor's Report — Fr. Stuart Crevcoure

- Thank you to Fr. Vince who blessed all our classrooms at the beginning of the school year.
- Back to School Nights were a success for both Preschool and K-8.

- School Masses have been going smoothly and well-attended by parents and grandparents.
- Back to school activities were well-attended despite the heat; we are all looking forward to an end to summer weather and especially the prospect of outdoor recess.
- The parish was happy to support the Chick-fil-A day last Thursday (even if Fr. Vince had it for three meals). Our parish staff always try to order food or catering for church events from vendors to support the school fundraising.
- The parish Justice and Peace Ministry hosted a holy hour to pray for education on Monday, September 14. It was good to see some of our school educators there.
- We are currently sitting at about 95 registrations in the Emmaus OCIA program for those becoming Catholic, including some school families. We've also instituted an OCIY program in conjunction with Emmaus for young teens who need sacramental preparation.
- Our 3rd graders continue to prepare for their Confirmation and First Communion at the end of October. Kindergarten has also expanded to a two-hour session in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 atrium, which has received very positive reports.

V. Principal Reports

A. Pre-School — Eileen Ames

Enrollment Changes Since August:

- Lost one student enrolled M-Th in Bunny Class (He was already 3)
  - i Withdrew the night before orientation
- Filled two openings in the Frog Class

Enrollment numbers:

- 63 families (up 4 from last year)
- 70 students (down 1 from last year)
- 27 new students (19 Bunnies)
- 19 new preschool families

Bunny Class

- 20 students
  - i 2 openings on M/W
  - ii 2 openings on T/Th

Fish Class

- 24 students
  - i Full with waitlist

Frog Class

- 25 students
  - i Full with waitlist

Budget

- 2026-2027
  - Budget looks good for July and August
- 2027-2028
- Preschool will need to discuss changing the tuition model during budget meetings. Currently we do not utilize a parishioner/non-parishioner model

and the plan is to work with the Finance Chair to research nearby schools and develop comparisons to base our rates on for the coming year.

- Re-enrollment will be in November

Activities

- Vision Screenings-September 4th
- Speech and Hearing Screenings- September 11th
- Fish Class Field Trip to the Fire Station – September 16th & 17th
- Brigance Developmental Assessments- September 18th
- Preschool Photos- September 22nd & 23rd

B. Elementary and Middle School — Ray Lewis

Strategic Planning

- **Be your Best**
  - Four new after school clubs began last week (September 8) and still continue to run throughout the school year on a seasonal/trimesterly basis
- **Communication**
  - Miss Edwards has taken the FYI and Mr. Lewis has a weekly blurb included in the FYI which is the main avenue to communicate updates about Strategic Plan or other areas.
- **Upcoming**
  - The Fall round of MAP testing will be administered throughout the week of September 21-25. Improving both reading and math scores are goals for this year, but math is a specific focus. Schoolwide we have focused on frame setting for the test with students.
  - We are currently in our two-week St. Jude awareness and fundraising period.
  - Parent Teacher conferences upcoming Thursday/Friday 9/17-9/18
  - Currently developing internal policies and education/guidance on AI use for adults and staff, with eyes toward doing a similar development for student use/education/guidance

Updates:

- Ann Bloomfield is this year's Saint Francis of Assisi Trust Educator of the Year nominee for School of Saint Mary. Please congratulate Mrs. Bloomfield, who has been a devoted and faithful educator at Saint Mary for seventeen years.
- About 95% of PCTC checks have been disbursed.
- From the Diocese: OKC Archdiocesan superintendent Lara Shuler concludes her role on Friday, September 18. OKC will have an interim and hire for the following school year.

Staff:

- ASC has spiked at its highest attendance rate ever, averaging about 35 students a day and peaking at over 40 students. Five are currently employed (Adam Sheppard, Reba Sullivan, Mary Lawson, Maggie Sheppard and Katherine Dewald) to maintain proper ratio

- Cafeteria Vina Gable has officially been hired as Cafeteria Manager and is working full-time in this capacity. There is a need to further staff the cafeteria pending tonight's conversation.
    - There is also a need to determine additional funding sources-either through pursuit of a grant or a potential change in pricing in the cafeteria to move this program closer to budget neutral territory

VI. Committee Assignments and Reports

A. Enrollment Report — Sarah Edwards

Enrollment Goal: 255

- Inquires-5 [All for 27/28 Kindergarten]; Tours-0; Shadow Visits-1

Total School Enrollment for 2026-2027: 255

- **Kindergarten** - 28
- **1st Grade -** 29 *(new student will enroll in the coming week)*
- **2nd Grade** - 31
- **3rd Grade** - 28
- **4th Grade** - 28
- **5th Grade** - 28
- **6th Grade** - 30
- **7th Grade** - 26
- **8th Grade** - 26

Important Dates

- Discover the School of Saint Mary- November 10, 2026
- New Parent Social- July 14, 2027

B. Strategic Plan Update — Fr. Vince Fernandez

- Discussion regarding the roll out of the first wave of Strategic Plan goals
    - Strengths and weaknesses of each area were reviewed, and discussion was had regarding process improvements
    - Sustainability is a primary concern and there is a hope to secure a dedication Enrichment Coordinator [per plan this is meant to be the Asst. Principal]
- Be Your Best was incredibly successful, and each enrichment program has strong volunteer support and enrollment.
    - Due to the success of this goal, the Team is shifting focus to the second goal under this heading: *"By January 2027, we will formulate plans to recruit, retain, and support our faculty and staff."*
- Be Supportive has seen success in uniform branding and communication by moving most communication duties under Sarah Edwards. Feedback has been largely positive.
    - Work is being down to improve new family orientation and buddy family programs to provide more consistency and support during transition periods
    - Discussion was held regarding increasing opportunities for school families and students to lead masses and to possibly lower the altar server age to 4th grade to be consistent with the restored order of the Sacraments

- There is some difficulty in recruiting "buddy families" for newly enrolled families as it can be a significant commitment. There is also concern about uniformity of information and experience when individual families are handling communication with newly enrolled families.

- **Be Generous** has rolled out the new service program in kindergarten, 3rd and 6th grades this year. This program requires students to complete grade-appropriate reflections each semester and a survey at the semester mark and at year-end.
  - There is concern about accountability regarding the service projects and in building a stronger connection between the church and school
  - Suggestions were made regarding championing these opportunities including communications from the school Principal, work with Catholic Charities and their new program, and offering tours of the Outreach Center.
  - There is an opportunity for more connection between the school and the middle school youth group, however, there are capacity and support concerns there.
  - Team is now turning attention to the next goal: "*Led by the Home and School Christian Ministry committee, we will plan 1–2 service projects that collaborate with the parish every year for the next five years*."

C. Home and School Report — Erin Brock-Atwood

- First Meeting was held on September 1, 2026, and was well attended
- New Financial Procedures and Grant Voting Processes were introduced
- Next Home and School Meeting is Scheduled for October 5, 2026

VII. Committee Chairs

A. Committee roles will be assigned and distributed in October; however, the following chairs have been identified:

- Policies and Procedures: Randall Snapp
- Facilities: Mike Cawiezell
- Finance: Tim Dixon
- Mission and Catholic Identity: Father Vince Fernandez

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 PM
Next School Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM