



St. Joseph Community School
216 N. Broadway Ave. New Hampton, IA 641.394.2865

School Board MINUTES

Date: 10.15.25		Time: 12:00-1:00 pm	
Attending Board Members: All board members present			
Absent:			
Guests: Shelly McDonald			
Called to order at: Amber called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM			
Roles			
Facilitator <u>Amber Kurash</u>		Notetaker: <u>Emily Schwickerath</u>	
Agenda Monitor <u>Connie Njus</u>		Prayer Leader: <u>Father Chris</u>	
Time Keeper <u>Phil Eichenberger</u>		Process Observer: <u>Michele Nehls</u>	
Schoolwide Goals			
<i>I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.</i> Philippians 4:13			
Agenda Item	Time Allotted	Submitted By	Action Steps
Prayer-Father Chris	3 Min		
Review Previous Meeting Minutes	2 Min	A. Kurash	LINK Approved By: Jaydon with Amendments Second Approval By: Connie w/Amendments
Leadership Light-Please watch			LINK

Faithful to our mission entrusted by God, St. Joseph Community School, in cooperation with the family, church, and community, commits to promote the enrichment of every child: mind, body, and soul.

Embracing over a century of excellence in education, St. Joseph Community School provides an academic means for each individual student to unlock their full potential. We are committed to the continued enhancement of our fine arts program as a creative expression of the mind.

In our welcoming environment, students learn respect for self and others and the value of all creation. We are devoted to the wellness of every student.

We recognize that all people were created by God for a higher purpose, greater than ourselves. We work with our students to discover their purpose and gifts through faith, prayer, and service to others, in praise to our Creator.

(continued)

Shout-Outs & Celebrations	5 Min	M. Nehls	<p>A recent post shared the NAEP National Reading Average for 4th graders at 33%, compared to an impressive 80% proficiency at St. Joe's!</p> <p>We're incredibly proud of our students and teachers for their hard work and dedication to learning. As updated numbers are released, we'll continue to share our progress.</p> <p>Our goal is 100% reading proficiency by the end of the year — and we're confident our students are well on their way!</p>
Items to Discuss (Prioritize Order)			
<u>Principal Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come with ideas for strategic plan action steps 	20 Min	M. Nehls	<p>On October 7, Michele met with Mindy Hart from the Archdiocese to review the three key rubrics for our school: Catholicity, Academics, and Operational Vitality. During the meeting, several goals were identified for the coming months, with plans to review progress later in the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academics: The focus will be on Professional Development Effectiveness and achieving 80% proficiency through MTSS. Operational Vitality: Efforts will center on strategic planning with the school board, as well as implementing an enrollment and marketing plan. Catholicity: The team will work on enhancing service initiatives and developing a plan to

			<p>fully embed Catholic Social Teaching into the religion curriculum. Additionally, a vocation plan will be established by the end of the school year.</p> <p>Michele is also collaborating with Jessie Nelson, Director of Special Education at the public school, to explore how St. Joe's can become independent in Special Education services beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This transition would eliminate the need for students to travel between schools throughout the day or week.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee Report • Enrollment Committee Report • Buildings/Grounds Report 	15 Min	P.Eichenberger A. Kurash E.Schwickerath C. Njus J. Mitchell	<p>Finance Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Program: September was the first month expenses exceeded income. Federal reimbursements for free/reduced lunches are pending and expected soon. The school will subsidize the program monthly as needed and is working with Becky on a plan. Donations are still welcome. • ESA & Funding: 84% of first-semester ESA deposits are in. Kucera and STO funds expected in November. • Facilities: The parish is conducting a capital campaign for

			<p>church/rectory boilers and carpet replacement. The school boiler will also be reviewed for future needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Investments: Finance Committee recommends moving long-term endowment funds from D&L to CFAD for higher returns (target 6.8%) and 4% annual distribution.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 7047E Central Endowment: ~\$710,000 → move to CFAD; keep 7047H Holding (\$113,000) at Arch for liquidity.○ 7897E Purple Cord Endowment: ~\$109,000 → move to CFAD; keep 7897H Holding (\$12,000) at Arch for liquidity.○ Purple Cord CDs: ~\$20,000 at Bank Iowa, accessible at maturity. <p>Enrollment Committee Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● NH Chamber Christmas Tree Display: Each family will make an ornament; Shelly and Ali sourcing boxes. Setup before Thanksgiving.● Baptism 2.0 Class:
--	--	--	---

			<p>Emily working with Paula Duff to organize leaders; goal start date January 1, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Night Out with St. Joe's: Preparing sponsor letters to confirm \$1,000 sponsors and Big 5 Raffle donors.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Paula contacting Hometown & Jean Leichtman○ Connie contacting Kristen Reicks & Andrea Boeding Speltz○ Emily contacting Schueth/Larson Lawn• Entertainment confirmed: <i>The Juice</i> and <i>Travis Turpin</i>.• Meal: NHGCC (Casey Hastings) catering; menu planning after New Year.• Christmas Goodie Bags: To be handed out after the Dec. 7 Christmas Concert; Booster Club assembling at next meeting.• Halloween Skate: Boosters providing snacks; Paula Duff coordinating setup. <p>Building/Grounds Committee Update:</p>
--	--	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Ramp: New cement ramp poured 10/1/25 by Gery Richter; slope now ADA compliant. • Greenhouse: Cleaned out 10/2, power disconnected 10/8, and removed 10/9. • Curb Cutting: Amber contacted Mitch Sprague (Iowa Wall Saw) for curb cuts between Preschool and Parish Center; work may be completed this fall. Gery Richter will handle finish work. • Preschool Playground: Emily S. received quote from Roger Dreckman for concrete base—approx. \$36,000 total (\$10/sq. ft.) including sidewalk and lip for rubber tiles. • Vulnerability Study: 2022 study meets FEMA grant requirements; board agreed to proceed without a new one. • Security System: Updated quotes—Mason City: \$49,149; Driftless Decorah: \$35,951 (preferred plan). Finance Committee confident current budget can fund project; FEMA grant application still planned.
--	--	--	--

Board Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Central Endowment to CFAD • Move Purple Cord Endowment to CFAD 	2 Min	A. Kurash	Motion was made by Emily and 2nd by Jaydon with unanimous support from the board to move endowment funds to CFAD.
Journey in Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Cluster meeting is Nov. 2nd • What model do you support? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ LINK 	5 Min	C. Njus	Continue to voice your concerns/opinions before clusters/maps are finalized.
Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten Apple Stand • Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser for preschool playground 10/3-10/27 • Live Rosary 10/22 • Red Ribbon Week 10/23-10/31 • Family Halloween Skate 10/26 2-4pm • Annual Fund Kick Off 11/1 • 2 Hr Early Out on 11/3 & 11/6 for Fall Conferences • All Saints Parade 11/5 • No School 11/7 - Comp Day • Veteran's Day Mass 11/14 • No School 11/17 - Teacher Inservice • First Reconciliation 11/19 • Change in schedule for Christmas Program. Moved from 12/7/25 to 12/14/25 due to Parish Needs. 	2 Min		
Next Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nov. 19th - 			Amber will be gone.
.Open Board Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there operational matters to discuss? 		Open	<p>At our next meeting the board will need to create 2 action steps for our STJ Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Mission & Catholic Identity–STJ will continue to nurture every student's faith journey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance & Leadership–STJ will continue to enhance School Board Engagement. 2. Academic Excellence–STJ will

			<p>support the excellence of its staff and enhance the educational experience of students by expanding opportunities for engaging, hands-on, and relevant learning opportunities.</p> <p>3. Operational Vitality</p> <p>a. STJ will achieve desired enrollment goals and classroom sizes through enhanced marketing, outreach, and retention planning in support of financial goals and long-term operational viability and vitality.</p> <p>b. STJ will pursue competitive salary and benefits for all staff.</p>
Adjourned at:			Meeting was adjourned by Amber at 1:04PM.