



			<p>special ed department to figure out a good fit for our students to stay at the school instead of having to be transported back and forth each day or multiple times a day taking them away from time with their peers. Erik sees this as something that could be done, especially since we do have a special ed teacher on staff now.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Security System - we let Erik know we are working on updating our security system which will include key fobs and new doors as well as updating some of the features our cameras are capable of. This is something high on Erik's list as well since there is minimal security at both the high school &amp; elementary school as far as shooter detection, key fobs, etc.</li> <li>3. We discussed NHCS D being able to use our gym if needed for additional practice spaces. This will need to be talked about with the Parish Council, but would be something we could offer.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Shout-Outs &amp; Celebrations</b></p>	<p>2 Min</p>	<p>M. Nehls</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Catholic schools week was a tremendous success...the students had a great time and the teachers were exhausted by the end of the week</li> <li>2. PreK Open house went great, there are several students already registered for preschool...both 3 &amp; 4 year old.</li> <li>3. The 1st grade students</li> </ol>

			did an amazing job singing at the Ash Wednesday service this morning!
<b>Items to Discuss (Prioritize Order)</b>			
<a href="#">Principal Reports</a>	5 Min	M. Nehls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feedback from the Prek-K open house was overwhelmingly positive. There has been an increased engagement on social media and several students already registered.</li> <li>2. CSW - 2026 huge success, but very demanding on the staff. Looking forward, is there a way to celebrate and make it a big week for students, but not so demanding on the staff?</li> <li>3. Leadership Light - continuing to look at collaboration ideas between school/families.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Finance Committee Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Enrollment Committee Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Buildings/Grounds Report</a></li> </ul>	15 Min	P.Eichenberger A Kurash E.Schwickerath C. Njus J. Mitchell	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parish Finance Meeting:</b> Amber and Phil attended the <b>Parish Finance Committee meeting on 1/29/2026.</b></li> <li>• <b>Security Project:</b> The <b>school door/security project</b> was formally approved by the Parish Finance Committee and received <b>Parish Council approval on 2/5/2026.</b> Next steps include obtaining <b>updated bids and completing the proxy.</b></li> <li>• <b>Parish Subsidy</b></li> </ul>

			<p>(‘25–’26): The parish confirmed the <b>\$400,000 subsidy</b> for the <b>2025–2026 school year</b>, which aligns with the amount previously budgeted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Parish Subsidy (‘26–’27):</b> The subsidy for the <b>2026–2027 school year will decrease to \$350,000</b> and is expected to remain at that level for the <b>next 3–5 years</b>. Due to uncertainties from the <b>Journey in Faith process</b>, the Parish Finance Committee noted that the school should <b>request additional support if needed</b>, as parishioners have historically been generous for specific needs or capital campaigns.</li> <li>● <b>Friends of St. Joe’s Account:</b> No changes since last month; the <b>current balance remains \$188.04</b>. <b>Celebration of Faith (Night Out with St. Joe’s):</b> Donations began in January with several tables purchased and business sponsorships totaling <b>\$7,000 to date</b>. The budget goal is <b>\$25,000</b>, with hopes to exceed that amount.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preschool Grant:</b> The first half of the <b>4-year preschool grant</b> was deposited in January and is <b>lower than last year</b> due to decreased enrollment.</p>
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			<p><b>Annual Fund:</b> January donations totaled <b>\$1,310</b>. The <b>\$25,000 goal has been met</b>, with the current total at <b>\$25,925</b>.</p> <p><b>FY2026 Budget Forecast:</b> Continued forecasting for FY2026. Enrollment is projected to remain <b>the same as the current year</b>, based on graduating 8th graders and expected incoming kindergarteners. Budgeting conservatively while hoping to increase overall enrollment. <b>Teacher pay scale and hourly wages</b> were also reviewed.</p> <p><b>Staffing Recommendation:</b> Recommendation to keep <b>staff headcount neutral</b> for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For the <b>2025–26 school year</b>, an FTE cap of <b>13.6</b> was approved, allowing flexibility to hire PE, music, or special education staff. Mrs. Larsen was hired, but with Mrs. Westwater’s departure, staffing remained at <b>11.6 FTE</b>.</li><li>• For the <b>upcoming year</b>, a <b>12.6 FTE cap</b> is recommended. This maintains current staffing levels while allowing flexibility to hire or share a <b>part-time PE, music, or art</b></li></ul>
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			<p><b>teacher</b> if the opportunity arises.</p> <p><b>Purple Cord Scholarship:</b> Briefly reviewed and will be discussed <b>in more detail next month</b>. Any future changes would impact <b>middle school students</b>, while <b>current high school students will remain under existing qualifications and payouts</b>. Increasing the high school scholarship amount does not align with the goal of using the program as a <b>marketing tool to retain middle school students</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Endowment Transfer Update:</b> Becky reported that the transfer of the <b>Education and Purple Cord endowments</b> from the Archdiocese D&amp;L to CFAD is currently paused until at least April. CFAD is reviewing the wording of 200+ endowments, each being sent to a Chicago attorney for review.</li><li>● <b>Summer KidZone Discussion:</b> Michele will send a <b>parent survey</b> to assess summer childcare needs (full-time, part-time, hours needed). The team hopes to hire <b>one additional part-time staff member</b>, potentially a high school or college student. Committee members are encouraged to refer interested candidates to</li></ul>
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			<p>Michele. An <b>ad will be placed in the church bulletin.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Program Purpose:</b> While KidZone is <b>not a major revenue generator</b>, it remains an important service for families and a <b>valuable marketing and recruitment tool</b>, particularly as the public school now partners with Little Sprouts.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Enrollment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Night Out with St. Joe's (NOWSTJ):</b> Event planning is progressing well. Several <b>live and silent auction items</b> have been donated, and <b>seats/tables are nearly sold out</b> thanks to strong support from families, community members, and donors. <b>Raffle ticket sales reached the \$10,000 goal</b>, with additional tickets to be sold the night of the event.</li><li>● <b>Baptism 2.0:</b> Classes will <b>begin in March</b> and be offered <b>every other month</b>. Emily will coordinate with the <b>parish office and parent volunteers</b> who have signed up to help teach the class.</li><li>● <b>Upcoming Events:</b> Planning will begin for <b>Teacher Appreciation Week in May</b> and a potential <b>end-of-year picnic</b>. Committee members are encouraged to share</li></ul>
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ideas for the picnic.

**Buildings/Grounds**

**Preschool Door Repair:** Door S14 in the preschool was not closing properly due to damaged hinges and door opener. **Dave Gorman repaired and replaced the hinges and opener**, resolving the issue. Total cost: **\$668**. Staff are advised **not to wedge the door open** to avoid future damage.

**NW Door Repair:** Invoice for **\$485** related to repairs completed on the **NW door last fall** has been submitted to the parish office.

**Preschool Ceiling Damage:** Jaydon met with **Michele and Bridgette** regarding ceiling damage in the preschool. **Gerard Glaser** conducted an inspection on **2/4/26** and will coordinate with the roofing material supplier to develop a repair plan.

**FEMA Grant Submission:** The **FEMA grant application** was submitted on **January 14** requesting **\$73,331.35** to fund **Phase 1 of the door/security upgrades**. Phase 1 includes replacing the **North entryway double doors and the Gathering Space door** to make them handicap accessible.

- If awarded, the grant start date would be **October 1, 2026**.
- The school plans to **move forward with Phase 1 in summer 2026 regardless of grant outcome**.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If approved, grant funds may instead be applied to <b>Phase 2 in summer 2027</b>, potentially replacing the <b>preschool door, far West door, and South door to the preschool playground</b> (final doors to be determined later).</li><li>● <b>Door/Security Project – Phase 1:</b> Estimated cost is <b>\$73,331.35</b>, which includes a <b>\$10,000 estimate for electrical work</b>. Some labor may be <b>donated to reduce costs</b>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>\$22,000</b> from <b>Fr. Carl's memorial</b> has been designated for the project.</li><li>○ Remaining <b>~\$51,000</b> can be funded through the current year's budget.</li><li>○ Next steps include <b>updating/finalizing quotes and completing the Archdiocese proxy</b>.</li><li>○ The project has received <b>approval from the Parish Buildings &amp; Grounds Committee and Parish Finance Committee</b> to move forward.</li></ul></li></ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Restroom Accessibility:</b> School restrooms need <b>wider entry doorways to accommodate wheelchairs</b>. While the stalls are accessible, the <b>doorways are too narrow</b> and are surrounded by <b>brick/block construction</b> rather than sheetrock. <b>Brian Tank Masonry</b> will be contacted to assess.</li> <li>● <b>Preschool Playground Remodel:</b> Discussion regarding <b>pavers and playground updates</b>. Awaiting the <b>teachers' wish list</b> to better determine the <b>scope and estimated cost</b> of the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Approve FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The St. Joseph Community School Board approves all contracts as presented not to exceed a total full time equivalency of 12.6.</li> </ul>	2 Min		Approve By: Emily 2nd By: Connie
<b>Mindy Hart</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluation information</li> </ul>	5 Min	M. Hart	Mindy gave each board member a link to be able to evaluate Michele, teachers will receive as well. Please have this completed by February 25th.
<b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Night Out with St. Joe's 2/21/26 @ 5 NHGCC</li> <li>● March 16th No School Teacher Inservice</li> </ul>	1 Min		
<b>Next Board Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● March 18th</li> </ul>			

<p><b>.Open Board Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there operational matters to discuss?</li> </ul>	5 Min	Open	
<p><b>Agenda Items for Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve '26-27 school calendar</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Adjourned at:</b></p>			1:03pm meeting was adjourned