

**Board of Advisors Minutes**  
**Monday, August 18th, 2025**  
**7:00 p.m. / Aquinas Conference Room**

**Aquinas Catholic Schools Mission Statement:**

*Provide a Christ centered learning environment where we develop individuals to be disciples of Christ in all areas of their lives.*

**Opening Procedures**

1. Welcome & Call to Order
2. Fr. Ventre led an opening prayer at 7:02.
3. Roll Call of BOA Members (Kelly Koranda- Secretary)
4. Present board members were: Christina Podolak, Colleen Storm, Melissa Yindrick, Sandy VanCura, Jared DeWispelare, Ryan Meister, Philip Zegers, Kyle Eller, Michaela Moravec, Fr. Connor, Alina Strong, Katie Smith, Maggie Miratski, Fr. Ventre, Ron Mimick, Trent Jakub, and Kelly Koranda
5. Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes (Austin Witmer- President)
  - a. Michaela Moravec made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Philip Zegers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

**School Reports**

6. Chief Administrator Report - Fr. Ventre
  - a. Fr. Ventre gave an update on the roofing situation. He spoke to the diocese about a loan, and they did not approve a loan but suggested doing some intentional fundraising for this cause. We would need to have half of the cost in hand and half pledged in order to receive a diocesan loan. They also recommended that we have an area of the budget that is set aside specifically for the depreciation of the buildings.
  - b. Tillotson is ok with starting any pieces of the project this fall – they just need \$109,000 to buy supplies and they won't bill us until the roof is done. There are some possibilities for another \$100,000 donation, another donation of \$10,000. We could be close to paying for the \$225K emergency portions.
  - c. There followed some discussion about the situation. It was pointed out that the September meeting addressing parents could be a prime opportunity to ask for money for the roof. There was some concern about doing a major campaign when several parishes are in the middle of their own campaigns and building projects, but it was also noted that donors understand the need for a good roof. It was mentioned we also have \$90,000 from St. Mary's Assessment that's not allotted in the budget. There were a variety of solutions discussed, including fundraising for the whole project or starting by doing the emergency stuff and then gearing up for a big campaign to also throw in the front entrance and other needs.
  - d. Fr. Connor mentioned going to the top 20-40 donors and did not think this would affect the other fundraisers like Phonathon and Gold Rush. It was suggested to consider using these gifts as a matching campaign.
  - e. The Board was in favor of starting with trying to ask 30-40 alumni and see what money could come in with that to start with, then reassessing where we are at.
7. Activities Report – Ron Mimick gave an update regarding the football program:

- a. He is convinced that for the safety of the players and in order to remain consistently competitive, we need to switch to 8-man. He considered the following factors:
- b. 28 schools that we have played in the past have switched to 8-man. Oakland-Craig forfeited season last week, and they are our size.
- c. 57% of boys at Aquinas currently play football – this has remained somewhat steady, but enrollment has gone down and NSAA cutoff numbers have gone up to 55 for 8-man.
- d. We currently opt up for 11-man; with the changes in NSAA numbers, to continue at 11-man would require opting up 2 classes.
- e. At the parent meeting, all of the parent comments were in favor of 8-man.
- f. November 30 – date to declare to the NSAA. It will be added to the agenda for the next meeting that the Board will take a vote.

### **Subcommittee and Pillar Reports**

1. Catholic identity reports
  - a. Melissa gave a brief review of the Unite night. She felt it was pretty well attended and encouraged all board members to continue to fan the flame of their own faith and also consider ways to do this in the wider community.
2. Finance reports
  - a. Philip Zegers led a review of the slides for the parent meetings in September and asked for the board's feedback.
  - b. He plans to incorporate the suggested changes and send the slides out for a final review by the Board before the meeting.
  - c. It was recommended that the meeting be put on Facebook and put out to invite other stakeholders beyond just parents, so they can be aware of what is happening at the schools!

### **Other Items**

3. Upcoming Schedule
  - a. September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the pillar meeting, at 6:30pm.
  - b. The next board meeting will be September 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. The 2 parent meetings will be September 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Closing Procedures**

4. **Next Meeting – September 15th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. .... Adoration @ 6:30p.m. – This will be a special meeting to prepare for the parent meeting.**
5. Fr. Ventre led a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

## Listing of Board of Advisors

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Father Michael Ventre | Chief Administrative Officer               |
| 2. Austin Witmer         | Board President                            |
| 3. Maggie Miratsky       | Board Vice President                       |
| 4. Kelly Koranda         | Board Secretary                            |
| 5. Sandy VanCura         | Middle/High School Principal               |
| 6. Katie Smith           | Elementary School Principal                |
| 7. Kristy Andel          | Holy Family Early Learning Center Director |
| 8. Alina Strong          | Business Manager                           |
| 9. Melissa Yindrick      | Campus Minister                            |
| 10. Michaela Moravec     | Alumni and Foundation                      |
| 11. Laura Adair          | Marketing and Enrollment                   |
| 12. Ron Mimick           | Activities Director                        |
| 13. Michael Moravec      | Board Member                               |
| 14. Christina Podolak    | Board Member                               |
| 15. Colleen Storm        | Board Member                               |
| 16. Brian Birkel         | Board Member                               |
| 17. Jared DeWispelare    | Board Member                               |
| 18. Trent Jakub          | Board Member                               |
| 19. Philip Zegers        | Board Member                               |
| 20. Kyle Eller           | Board Member                               |
| 21. Ryan Meister         | Board Member                               |
| 22. Father Brian Connor  | Dean, David City Deanery                   |