

# SPPCS School Board Meeting Minutes



**Date:** August 7, 2023

**Attendees:** Misty Yanko (2027), Alison Essner (2024), Tracy Phipps (2029), Lori Matzenbacher (Principal), Lori House (2028), Angela Crowe (2024), Henry Wicklein (Tipton), Fr. Linus (Pastor), Fr. Evaristus (Assoc Pastor), Tracy Gedris (2028), Angela Atkinson (St. Mary's)

**Guests:** Donovan Melican from Outsider

**Absent:** Aaron Litteken (Hecker), Chris Schuchardt (Tipton), Ex-Officio Position - Kevin Edwards

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- Opening Prayer - Fr. Linus
- Approval of June 2023 Minutes - Angela Crowe and Tracy Phipps
- Approval of Agenda - Tracy Phipps and Henry Wicklein
- Standing Reports
  - Athletic Report – Carrie Phelps (AD)
    - Just getting started with fall sports: baseball, softball, cross country
    - Did get soccer coordinators for new year
  - Booster Club – Rick Kincheloe (President)
    - Next meeting is Aug 9th
  - PTO Report – Alison Essner
    - PTO Executive Board met for a planning meeting, but no official meeting since April
    - We will have a booth at Back to School Night
    - We will offer a raffle for in-person participation at meetings and volunteer hours
    - We will offer Zoom option for meetings
    - Will facilitate Staff Surprises once per month again (with focus on meals)
    - Would like the meeting attendance to have no uniform reward the very next day
  - Pastoral Council – Need Rep
  - Finance Council – Need Rep
    - Lori Matzenbacher gave update: Gym roof was replaced but had additional leaking this summer. Steve Goessling looking into this issue for us. Also had electrical work done in the gym to add more outlets/light switches and update panels. Still getting bids for other work around the gym, ball fields, and playgrounds with help of Steve Goessling and Andrew Riebeling.
- Follow Up Action Items from Previous Meeting
  - Status of Queen of Hearts with Diocese
    - Diocese is holding firm at \$100k cap for Queen of Hearts drawings.
    - We cannot start a new game until further legal issues are resolved with the diocese.
    - The board is very disappointed in the diocese decision and discussion was had
    - School board made an official recommendation to skip the week of August 15 to buy time for Lori Matzenbacher and/or Father Linus to schedule an in-person meeting with the diocese.

- The amount budgeted for Queen of Hearts for this fiscal year was not known, but Lori Matzenbacher will look it up and report back.
- Family Mentor Program
  - We have 45 new families, but waiting to see if new people opt out before matching with a mentor family.
  - We will have a meet & greet for new families/mentors at 5pm in the gym before Back to School/Blessing of the Backpacks.
- Ed First Update (Tracy Gedris)
  - Received a good response on second mailer for the campaign
  - \$34,240 in donations (135 donations/responses)
  - We have \$83,000 in Ed First and will use for new religion curriculum recommended by the Bishop.
- New Board Members
  - Board conducted a “blind vote” based on the self-nominations received online for open board positions. Submissions were reviewed without names attached for unbiased voting.
  - Applicants 1, 2, 3 received the most votes and Applicant 4 will become the alternate in case of an emergency opening on the board. Vote tally: #1 6x, #2 6x, #3 5x, #4 3x, #5 1x
  - Post meeting note: Tracy verified eligibility with Becky Simshauser. Applicant #3 did not have a child in K-8, so Applicants 1, 2, and 4 will be invited to the board. Applicant #5 will become the alternate.
- Principal Items
  - Enrollment update:
    - 26 8<sup>th</sup> graders
    - 19 7<sup>th</sup> graders
    - 15 6<sup>th</sup> graders
    - 23 5<sup>th</sup> graders
    - 18 4<sup>th</sup> graders
    - 21 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
    - 20 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
    - 26 1<sup>st</sup> graders
    - 25 Kindergarten
    - Current Total is 193 K-8 enrolled fully (188 last year K-8)
    - Last year we had 189 K-8
    - Total of 62 Pre-K (in three existing classes) enrolled
    - Last year 53 Pre-K
    - School Budgeted 203 K-8 students, and 55 for Pre-K
    - Lori Matzenbacher has added church as stop on a prospective family tour
    - Empower Illinois is ending as of this year. SPPCS received an extra donation for just our school this year (Lori Matzenbacher did not know the exact dollar amount).
  - Staffing update
    - Spanish Teacher declined our offer
      - Only had two applicants
      - Jamie Kaiser-Smith will pick up Art for Junior High, others will double up for STEM/PE

- Lori plans to push for a hire for next year and not continue the search to fill this position for this year
  - A former employee reach out and express interested in working again - combo position of aide/cafeteria/latchkey could be created.
  - Cafeteria/Latchkey staff member also “fell through.”
- Back to School Night
  - Organizations will have booths in the gym including:
    - Boy Scouts
    - Knights
    - Mary & Martha
    - Adult Faith
    - PTO
    - Booster Club
    - Also invited but no reply yet: Holy Name and Girl Scouts
  - Father will do backpack blessing in church
- New Business Board Items
  - Picnic update: great profit year, up from last year
- Standing Boarding Committees - Will incorporate new board members onto existing committees when they join the board
  - Planning & Curriculum - Lori House
  - Marketing, Development, & Enrollment - Alison, Aaron, & Tracy
  - Facilities & Grounds - Chris & Henry
  - Catholic Identity - Angela
  - Finance - Misty (would like to change)
- Next meeting will be Monday, September 11, 2023
- Closing Prayer - Fr Eva