



## **St. John Catholic School – Advisory Board Meeting October 3, 2025 12:00 pm**

Mission Statement: St. John Catholic School exists to educate young men and women in the Catholic Christian faith who will enrich the community through their actions to love others, grow in faith, learn about the world, and believe in God's plan for salvation.

La Escuela Católica de San Juan existe para educar a los jóvenes en la fe católica/cristiana que enriquecerán a la comunidad a través de sus acciones. Amando al prójimo, CRECIENDO en la fe, APRENDIENDO sobre su mundo y CREYENDO en el plan de Dios para la salvación.

10/3/25 12:00 pm

**Present:** Mr. David Dean, Fr. Leo Morales, Dr. Cristel Miller, Kristen Bierschenk, Elizabeth Morgan, Sean Urban (president), Summer Lamb (HSA president)

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Fr. Leo lead in an opening prayer

### **SAC training:**

Roles important as members of the school community to support Fr. Leo and Dr. Miller in their roles in the school.

Wonderful mission and our school provides some services that not all schools can provide. We have prayer and formation.

Handout provided from the diocese handbook

Pointed out some sections:

6.1 Advise principal and pastor in matters of planning, policy ...

You will hear things as members of the community before the priest and principal do. (Coffee shop, parking lot, ...) Exercise prudence

Importance of the mission statement. Guard and protect that. It's our guiding light. Problems can happen when we lose sight of the mission.

This is where SAC can play a big role in listening. Listen to comments even if negative and redirect those back to the principal.

Listen to the negative and bring it back to Dr. Miller and have a discussion.

Using these guidelines to help keep SAC members out of the conflict. Remind parents: have you spoken to that teacher? Principle of subsidiary. Start with the teacher and then if the conversation doesn't go well or achieve desired outcomes, then go to the principal, pastor, superintendent.

People can get upset. So hopefully not a big issue, but things do happen.

6.2 A. Review the mission yearly and know it so it can guide us, the school.

Long range planning.

Policy development

Financing: budget

Public relations

Evaluation: is SAC meeting goals and how things are going in general

Laws: private school is diff. from public school. We don't have to do everything that the public school is required to do as they receive public funds. We have a chancellor at the diocese that is inside legal council. We also consult with the Bishop about accepting governmental funds.

B. The church is canon law. The school is under the church.

We really want and need your input.

Summarize actions in the parish bulletin.

C. Big sense in the diocese: 77 parishes 9 elementary schools attached to parishes 13 schools under the umbrella of the diocese. There are branches and other entities, example, Catholic Charities, cemeteries, etc.

Diocese has a handbook, Diocese schools office has a handbook, school has a handbook.

Hierarchy of the handbooks aren't always a perfect top down flow due to the different nature of the services provided. But Diocese is the top guide.

D. Sometimes changes might happen during the year that causes an immediate change to the policy.

E. Membership: 5-11 people depending on the school size

F. Committees

G. Agenda: visitors free to attend, advertise. If they want to address the council, a request must be made in writing at least one week prior to the meeting. Pastor and principal can choose to address this outside of the meeting if it is a sensitive matter. So if it is approved to listen then we just listen. We can stay after the meeting to discuss. Then pastor or principal can address/follow up later. Then pastor/principal addresses the party and it keeps the SAC members out of any difficulties.

H. Procedures: recommend Robert's Rules of Order. But it can be a simplified version of RRO.

Still pastor/principal decision ultimately but a vote can show them what you as a council are thinking. If an issue comes up and the council is divided, try to get to a consensus model, when you leave the room you are comfortable coming out with this is what is going to happen and you are not nay-saying or dragging down the school. Point where we are all working together.

Reference to St. Paul and him focusing on unity. Doesn't mean we all agree, but when I leave the room I'm going to go out and say the right thing. We have to have unity as a school. We have enough entities that don't like us in the public arena so it is important to stick together as a team. So if you feel that you can't go out and defend the school, go to the priest and the principal to get help. Especially don't vent on social media. Avoid that.

Mr. Urban stated that he feels that it is a close knit community. That we can address issues and support each other.

Mr. Dean appreciates all of us.

How does the agenda go?

We will start with prayer and some formation. Mr. Dean will share resources for formation with Fr. Leo.

Dr. Miller will bring what accreditation recommended what plans we are lacking and we can choose one to start working toward.

Dr. Miller can work with Mr. Urban to plan the agenda and I will share previous agendas with Fr. and Mr. Urban.

Plan for an hour. Can go a bit longer, but at 75 minutes cut it off and table it and plan for the next meeting.