

St. Mary Education Committee
August 19, 2026 – 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Webster, Mandy Wurth, Blake Cvengros, Lynn Thompson, Matt Durbin, Dr. Ed O'Neil, David Gavin, James Medley, Tiffany Gust and Austin Smith

Members Not Present: none

Guest – No guests in attendance

Episcopal Vicar Present: Fr. Mike Clark

St. Mary /Diocesan Staff Present: Holly Miller, Mary Smith, Ashley Wright, Robin Mowers and Bryan Krueger

Meeting Called to Order – 5:30 pm

Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike Clark

Approval of Minutes – July's minutes approval was deferred.

New and Pending Business—

Introductions – Fr. Mike introduced Tiffany Gust as a new member of SMEC. Tiffany will fill the role of our non-Catholic member.

Athletic Handbook Updates and Approval – SMEC only plays an advisory role regarding the handbook. The current one is active and in use. It will be reviewed annually as required by KHSAA. 2 changes for the current year were reviewed by SMEC and no dissension was noted.

Open SMEC position – While the more voices available to provide perspective and advice, the better, the committee will accommodate the wishes of the pastor of St. Francis De Sales not to fill the open representative position until his return from sabbatical.

Safety and Security – Door alarms are being installed. School and coaching staff are working out the logistics of manning doors and the settings on these alarms.

Athletics – KHSAA has changed the rules on students sitting out a year when transferring schools in recent years. We hope this might make it easier for student-athletes not playing at least 20% of a season to move to St. Mary should they wish. Byran also noted NIL has been extended to high school students and this could help the school financially.

KY HB-1 – discusses the development of Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that would accept donated funds from taxpayers in exchange for tax credits up to \$1,750 for those taxpayers. We will be watching for developments to see if this passes the Kentucky House.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports – Committees should hold a meeting in the next month. Blake asked for attendees of this meeting to ensure each committee meets. Holly Miller and Mandy Wurth shared plans from the Catholic Identity Committee, who met in early August, to highlight community service. The hope is the students can “Let their light shine” with a different service project each month highlighting a different local agency. A St. Mary graduate gives back to their community.

Administrative Updates

Episcopal Vicar Update – Fr. Mike shared Priesthood Sunday is September 27th and Vocation Awareness Week is November 1st – 7th. This week is followed by the “Called by Name” program. Parishioners are asked to submit names to the diocese of individuals who seem well suited for the monastic or religious life. These individuals would then be invited to discern such a calling.

Director and Principal updates – SMEC was provided written updates on facilities, marketing and enrollment, academics, student life and staffing. Mass and Adoration schedules have been set and annual retreats are being scheduled. ParentSquare has been implemented as the new system-wide communication platform. Summer professional development of faculty and staff as completed. We have hired an “Instructional Support Lead” to mentor and support teacher development. Fall sports have begun. Jr. Vikings will be opened to children from the parishes this year after approval from the deanery.

Advancement and Enrollment - Ashley Wright provided current enrollment numbers, updates on donor meetings and fund-raising efforts.

Finance – Robin shared updates as known so far on the diocesan pension plans moving to Gallagher and a 403(b). Summer and the audit readiness project has delayed approval of monthly results. June and July numbers will be approved/ready to submit by the September meeting.

Announcements –

Auction volunteers and committee members are needed.

The Class of 2006 held a reunion and toured the school.

Next SMEC Meeting – September 16th at 5:30pm.

Closing Prayer Fr. Mike Clark led a closing prayer

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.