



**St. Joseph Community School**  
 216 N. Broadway Ave. New Hampton, IA 641.394.2865

## School Board Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 5.20.25		<b>Time:</b> 7:00-9:05 pm	
<b>Attending Board Members:</b> Michele Nehls, Amber Kurash, Phil Eichenberger, Emily Schwickerath, Lisa Abbas, Connie Njus, Fr. Jim Goerend, Shelly McDonald			
<b>Absent:</b> 0			
<b>Guests:</b> Michael Kozelka from Driftless Security Decorah			
<b>Called to order at:</b> 7:01 PM			
<b>Roles</b> Facilitator <u>Amber Kurash</u> Notetaker <u>Lisa Abbas</u> Agenda Monitor <u>Phil Eichenberger</u> Prayer Leader: <u>Connie Njus</u> Time Keeper <u>Emily Schwickerath</u> Process Observer: <u>Michele Nehls</u>			
<b>Schoolwide Goals</b>  Faithful to our mission entrusted by God, St. Joseph Community School, in cooperation with the family, church, and community, commits to promote the enrichment of every child: mind, body, and soul. Embracing over a century of excellence in education, St. Joseph Community School provides an academic means for each individual student to unlock their full potential. We are committed to the continued enhancement of our fine arts program as a creative expression of the mind.  In our welcoming environment, students learn respect for self and others and the value of all creation. We are devoted to the wellness of every student.  We recognize that all people were created by God for a higher purpose, greater than ourselves. We work with our students to discover their purpose and gifts through faith, prayer, and service to others, in praise to our Creator.  Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17			
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Time Allotted</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
<b>Shout-Outs &amp; Celebrations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Radio Ads 95.1 The Bull</li><li>• Fishing Unit in PE</li><li>• DARE graduation</li></ul>	5 Min	M. Nehls	-Radio ad now discussing ESA/free tuition. 2x/day M-F. -NH Police Chief Conrad Rosendahl restarted the DARE

(continued)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool graduation</li> <li>• 8th grade trip/graduation</li> </ul>			<p>program this year. Middle schoolers participated in it. Plan to do an every other year rotation with DARE</p> <p>-19 preschool graduates, graduation was on 5/20.</p> <p>-8th grade trip is a mother/daughter trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Minneapolis on 5/21 and 5/22. Pedicures and shopping. There are 3 8th grade girls, their moms and teachers going.</p>
<b>Review Previous Meeting Notes &amp; Minutes</b>	2 Min	A. Kurash	<p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p>Approved By: E. Schwickerath Second Approval By: C. Njus</p>
<b>Items to Discuss (Prioritize Order)</b>			
<b>Security Quote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of 3 options</li> </ul>	10-15 Min	Mike with Driftless Security	<p>-Video call. Company out of Decorah. 3 Options: #1 \$34K Basic Pkg/Security Doors, #2 \$46K includes shooter detection system, #3 \$55K includes SDS plus video integration. Board leaning toward Opt. #1 with plans to upgrade in upcoming years. Handicap accessible doors are a priority. Will request a second walkthrough with Mike and invite board members to join. Include options for church.</p>
<b>Principal Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISASP Results</li> <li>• Building wide test results</li> <li>• ESA/STO Update</li> <li>• Projected enrollment numbers for next year</li> <li>• Staff PD Days for '25-'26</li> <li>• Approve '25-'26 calendar</li> </ul>	10-15 Min	M. Nehls	<p>-ISASP results show growth overall (72% of students) esp. in reading and writing. Room to improve in math.</p> <p>-FAST scores. Great improvement in all areas.</p> <p>-Projected enrollment 83 students. All expected families have completed ESA and STO. STO awarded \$41,955. \$13K Kucera Grant for tuition assistance.</p> <p>-Staff to complete 5 PD days in the summer, use the Mon. teacher inservice days during the school year for personal days.</p> <p>-Teacher requested to have 12/23/25 off.</p> <p>Approved By: E. Schwickerath</p>

			Second Approval: N/A (No second approval) -'25-'26 Calendar as is Approved By: E. Schwickerath Second Approval By: P. Eichenberger
<b>Executive Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff contract update</li> </ul>	5 min	M. Nehls A. Kurash	-Called to order at 8:37 PM, Adjourned at 8:47 PM. -Accepted Cathy Westwater's resignation with a penalty. Approved By: E. Schwickerath Second Approval By: C. Njus -PE contract not renewed. -Arch Diocese requesting secretary position be 12 months rather than 10.5 months.
<b>Finance Committee Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote</li> <li>Budget Update</li> <li>Posted Positions</li> <li>Kidzone Update</li> <li>Security Quote</li> </ul>	10-15 min	P.Eichenberger A. Kurash	-With \$435K parish support, small deficit expected for the year. -Postings for part-time music teacher, more paras, PE teacher (w/ Protivin), Enrichment Coordinator. -Summer KidZone Rates: Full Time \$135/wk, Part Time \$4/hr with a \$75/wk minimum charge. 6 full time and 8 part time kids enrolled. -Security Quotes (see above)
<b>Enrollment Committee Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher Appreciation Week recap</li> <li>School picnic-Pizza fundraiser for lunch program update</li> </ul>	10-15 min	L. Abbas E.Schwickerath C. Njus	--~\$500 donated for teacher appreciation week. Went toward gifts, meals, coffee, flowers, etc. Well received. -\$400-\$500 expected from Poor Richards/school picnic fundraiser. Charging \$20/pizza but receiving them at a discounted rate (\$11-\$13). All funds raised will go toward the school lunch program.
<b>Golf Outing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundraiser update</li> </ul>	5 min	C. Njus	-Golf Outing 6/23/25. -No raffle this year, instead encouraging donations toward the school security system.
<b>Buildings/Grounds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet Upgrade</li> <li>Preschool Playground</li> <li>Security/Doors System</li> </ul>	5 min	M. Nehls A. Kurash	-No timeline on these projects. Expected to be completed sometime this summer.

<b>Recruitment Ideas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Board - Connie Njus, Lisa Abbas, Amber Kurash terms ending</li> <li>• Friends of St. Joe's/Celebration of Faith committee members</li> <li>• Results of recruitment efforts</li> </ul>	5 min	A. Kurash	-L. Abbas term ended, C. Njus renewed x 1 year, A. Kurash renewed. No new members yet. -E. Schwickerath plans to send email/text closer to beginning of new school year to recruit new members to Friends of St. Joe's/COF committee. -Discussed obtaining baptism records from the church and contacting parents of all non-St. Joe's children of the parish directly.
<b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Out Friday the 23rd Family Picnic at 11 - Kidzone closed</li> <li>• Kidzone closed Memorial Day - Opens for summer on Tuesday, May 27th</li> <li>• No Board Meeting in June</li> <li>• Set date of July Meeting</li> </ul>	5 min	M. Nehls	-June board meeting only if needed to discuss Security System. -Move July board meeting to 7/22 due to vacations, etc.?
<b>.Open Board Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there operational matters to discuss?</li> </ul>	10 min	Open	
<b>Agenda Items for Next Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome new member</li> <li>• Vote on positions</li> </ul>			
<b>Adjourned at: 9:05 PM</b>			