

ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL |
School Advisory Council — Meeting
Minutes

MEETING MINUTES
St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Council

Meeting Type: Special Session — Called by Chairperson Doug Rexroat
Agenda Item: Daily inclusion of morning Mass as part of the school curriculum
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: St. Mary Catholic School — Cafeteria
Adjourned: 8:47 PM

1. Attendance

SAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Name	Attendance
Chad Borodychuk	Present
Sean Campillo	Present
Susan Cordes	Present
Jesse Gulley	Present
Paula Korson	Present
Colin Korson	Present
Matt Monroe	Present
Doug Rexroat	Present
Laura Tarsa	Present
Sandra Grant	Absent – Execused
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NON-VOTING)	
Fr. James Siler — Pastor	Present
Megan Glynn — Principal (Outgoing)	Present
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	

Rachel Amalfitano — Advancement Director (Invited Speaker)	Present
Lori Schaub — Business Manager (Available for Questions)	Present

Quorum confirmed. Nine (9) of ten (10) SAC Committee Members present. Sandra Grant absent.

Estimated public attendance: approximately 70 individuals.

2. Call to Order

Chairperson Doug Rexroat called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 PM. Fr. James Siler led attendees in an opening Hail Mary.

3. Agenda Modifications

Chairperson Rexroat requested consensus approval of the following modifications to the agenda:

- Addition of an enrollment information presentation by Rachel Amalfitano, prior to Public Comment.
- Addition of a written communications reading segment, following Public Comment.
- Addition of a Questions & Answers segment between communications and deliberation.
- Establishment of a three-minute limit on individual public comment.

No objections were raised. Agenda modifications adopted by consensus.

4. Agenda Item — Daily Mass as Part of the School Curriculum

4.1 Presentation by Fr. James Siler

Fr. Siler opened with a Gospel reading (John 6) and addressed the full assembly. He provided context for his January 2026 assignment to St. Mary's and articulated his vision for the school: to build a refuge and a product second to none, reaching 250 students within two years and a waiting list within three years. He identified division, enrollment decline, and loss of spiritual focus as core challenges requiring unified action.

Fr. Siler stated that his original vision was to embed daily Mass within the academic curriculum as part of the school day. He acknowledged that rumors — including that Mass attendance would be mandatory and that non-Catholic families would be unwelcome — were false and caused by spiritual opposition to the school's mission. He expressed pastoral understanding of the community's fear and wounds from prior leadership.

Fr. Siler announced his decision for the 2026–2027 school year:

Daily Mass will be offered at 0 Hour (7:30 AM) as an optional, voluntary program. Families and students are not required to attend. The school will maintain its daily Mass offering as a matter of spiritual mission. The weekly all-school Mass will continue.

4.2 Scheduling Overview — Megan Glynn, Principal (Outgoing)

Outgoing Principal Megan Glynn provided an overview of scheduling considerations. She confirmed that St. Mary's is not required by law to meet the 180-day / 1,098-hour public school standard; however, the school has historically met this standard to qualify for state aid and related services. She outlined that adding daily Mass would require recovery of approximately 25 minutes of instructional time and proposed mechanisms to achieve this (shortened lunch period; minor extension of the school day). She noted that the incoming administration and faculty will finalize the schedule for 2026–2027.

4.3 Enrollment Update — Rachel Amalfitano, Advancement Director

Rachel Amalfitano reported that current enrollment is below historical levels, consistent with countywide demographic decline since 2018. Pre-K trends are positive. Approximately 20% of current enrollment is non-Catholic. Primary growth opportunities are anticipated from public school transfers and homeschool families.

5. Public Comment

Public comment was conducted with a three-minute limit per speaker. Approximately 25-30 individuals addressed the council. The following is a summary of the principal themes raised; individual statements are not attributed by name per standard practice.

In Support of Optional 7:30 AM Mass:

- Multiple speakers expressed theological support for daily Eucharist and trust in Fr. Siler's spiritual leadership.
- Nick Hendrick, high school history teacher, testified to the academic value of daily Mass in the context of history instruction.
- Jeff and Michelle Joubran indicated that a daily Mass offering would be an enrollment draw for homeschool families.
- Amanda Tarsa, Alumni, framed academic time concerns as a matter of trust in God's provision.
- Toby Wegener shared a testimonial, relayed by phone that evening, of a former student whose life was saved by the St. Mary community.
- Several alumni and generational family members shared personal faith formation testimonies attributable to St. Mary's Catholic identity.

Expressing Concern or Caution:

- Multiple parents reported first learning of the daily Mass proposal through their children, citing a significant communication failure.
- Academic performance concerns were raised, with reference to recent standardized test results showing St. Mary trailing neighboring schools in math.

- Dan Kaupas cited a comparable Catholic school that experienced approximately 60% teacher turnover and significant enrollment loss following implementation of daily mandatory Mass.
- Non-Catholic families (approximately 20% of enrollment) expressed concern about potential marginalization and its effect on future enrollment.
- Unresolved logistics were raised: busing, safety/supervision at 7:30 AM, and interaction with late-start days.
- Peter Morio, former SAC vice president with advanced degrees in education, noted that reducing class periods by three minutes equates to approximately two weeks of lost instruction per year.
- Rachel Amalfitano raised a concern that music ministry may be reduced under a daily Mass model.
- Lawrence Bunchak, parishioner of 25 years, raised the question of parish-school relationship and asked the SAC to clarify its role and influence.

6. Written Communications

The following written communications, received by the SAC prior to the meeting, were read aloud by Secretary Jesse Gulley following the close of public comment:

- Mandy Jelinek -- Parent; concerns regarding mandatory mass and non-Catholic family impact; intent to unenroll if mandatory implementation proceeds; request for optional model.
- Mary Ann Korson -- Expressed gratitude to Fr. Siler; concerns about mandatory mass; proposed hybrid schedule alternatives.
- Nancy Burgess -- Parent and R.N.; recommended optional mass; raised developmental and logistical concerns; suggested age-differentiated and flexible scheduling.
- Sarah Morio -- Alumni, parishioner; argued for 7:30 AM format as enabling family participation; opposed embedding Mass in the academic day.

7. Questions & Answers

Chairperson Rexroat facilitated a Q&A segment following public comment. Key items noted for follow-up:

- Busing adjustments: To be addressed at the May 27 regular meeting.
- Safety/supervision at 7:30 AM: To be finalized by administration with SAC input.
- Teacher/faculty feedback: Mixed; to be further developed by administration.
- SAC role: Advisory per bylaws; Fr. Siler committed to collaborative, open model going forward.
- Future decision process (2027–2028): To be determined at a future SAC meeting.

8. Deliberation & Motion

Following the Q&A segment, Chairperson Rexroat invited the council to deliberate and reach consensus on the matter before it.

Motion	Moved By	Outcome
Consensus in agreement with Fr. Siler's decision to offer optional 7:30 AM Mass beginning 2026–2027; SAC commits to collaborative implementation.	Doug Rexroat	Unanimous consensus. No objections.

Time of consensus: 8:47 PM

9. Action Items

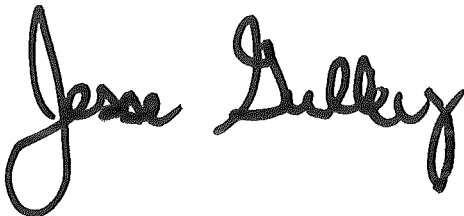
Action Item	Owner	Due Date
Develop agenda for May 27 regular meeting; include busing, safety/supervision, and implementation planning for 7:30 AM Mass	Administration / SAC	~May 20
Address busing timing adjustments for optional 7:30 AM Mass	Administration / SAC	May 27 meeting
Develop safety and supervision plan for students at 7:30 AM optional Mass	Administration / SAC	May 27 meeting
Clarify 2027-2028 decision process and SAC role	Doug Rexroat / Fr. Siler	TBD
Issue official communication to all school families regarding 7:30 AM optional Mass decision	Administration / Fr. Siler	ASAP

10. Adjournment

Fr. Siler led the closing prayer. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM by consensus.

Submitted by: Jesse Gulley, Secretary — St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Council
Date Submitted: 05/27/2026

Approved by: Jesse Gulley, Secretary — St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Council



Date Approved: 05/27/2026