

## Education Advisory Council Meeting

March 30, 2026 5:30 – 7:35 PM

### Present: Voting Members (8)

Fr. Pat Reynolds	Brennan Blair	Kristy Fulkerson	Michelle Harris
Amanda Jerome	Chrissy Kurtz	Fr. John Thomas	Carey Turner

### Present: Non-Voting Members (14)

Ben Cecil	Tracy Conkright	Julie Garvin	Steve Garvin
Natalie Hayden	Matt Madej	Kristin Miller	Andra Montgomery
Carrie Osborne	George Powell	Margaret Thompson	Melissa Toler
Maria Carr	Jenny Glenn		

Tracy opened the meeting with a prayer, members introduced themselves to Ben Cecil, new HR Director. Minutes of the February 2, 2026 Advisory Council Meeting were approved by a motion from Amanda Jerome and seconded by Chrissy Kurtz.

Tracy encouraged the voting members of the Advisory Council to complete the Leadership Survey, sign, and seal in the envelop provided. These will be forward to David Kessler, Superintendent of Owensboro Catholic Schools.

### **Dual Credit:**

Kurt Osborne, OCHS Senior Counselor, introduced a slide presentation, “Dual and Technical School Credit Information.” OCHS partners with three institutions, Murray, Brescia, and OCTC, to offer OCHS students the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits during their junior and senior years. Included in the presentation were both the classes offered, the pros and cons of Dual Credit, and the transfer of these credits.

### **K-8 principals presented the 2025-2026 Fall and Winter MAP testing results:**

The principals feel that the growth in tested areas was due to teacher professional development training, understanding the standards, curriculum mapping, and “Building Thinking Classrooms.”

- Kristin Miller, K-3 Campus principal, addressed the students’ demonstrated growth in Math and Reading.
- Carrie Osborne, 4-6 Campus principal, presented the growth made by the students in Math and Reading, and Language Arts.
- Steve Garvin, Middle School principal, was excited to announce the growth the students made in Language Art. There was a small decrease in Math and Reading scores.
- OCS administration expects to see more growth in the Spring MAP testing results.

### **Education Report – Tracy Conkright:**

- OCS is very excited to partnered with Lands’ End for future uniform needs. The uniform will be introduced to the families after Spring Break, optional for the 2026-2027 school year, fully implemented in 2027-2028. Lands’ End will give our families 14% through the Scrip program and OCS will receive a rebate on online purchases. The rebate will go towards uniform financial assistance to our families during the 2027-2028 school year.
- OCS is partnering with St. Pius X Parish to open a preschool in August 2026. OCS’ current plan is to transition St. Pius X’s present preschool program to OCS, and then to expand in 2027-2028, welcoming the opportunity to grow our students in faith beginning at age three.

- The contract for Phase II of the middle school roof project has been signed. We hope to begin the project in May 2026.
- Both OCS elementary schools' applications for the NCEA School of Distinction Award have been approved and they move on to the next round of applications. Next year we plan to complete applications for both the OCMS and OCHS as schools of distinction.

#### **Faith Formation Report – Matt Madej:**

- Holy Week theology classes will focus on the Holy Week and the Passion of Christ.
- ARK testing starts after Spring Break.
- Freshman retreat at Precious Blood Church received positive reviews from the students.
- The old OCHS chapel was de-consecrated, and several items moved to the new chapel.

#### **Human Resources Report – Ben Cecil:**

- Ben highlight OCS employment positions that are opening for teachers, coaches, bus drivers, etc. Several positions have been filled. There is a possibility of opening a new teaching position in the OCMS Language Arts department if enrollment warrants.
- FEMA Grant is ongoing. Used for updating school security, this grant's completion date is July 2027.
- Annual EANS inventory audit will start on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Financial Report – Julie Garvin:**

- There is a new federal tax credit that could provide an incentive for increased enrollment for OCS. A donor can donate to a Scholarship Granting Organization up to \$1700 per taxpayer per year and receive a tax credit for the same amount. It is a nonrefundable tax credit that can be carried forward 5 years. A nonrefundable tax credit means that the donor's tax liability has to equal or exceed the \$1700 when filing single or head of household, \$3400 if married filing joint. Household income appears to be the only eligibility requirement for the student. This could make a Catholic education more affordable for many. This tax credit goes into effect on January 1, 2027, and we are hoping for more guidance from the IRS soon.
- Pension plan resolution is still in the recommendation phase.
- Budget report was distributed and discussed. We received a check from the insurance company for a little over half a million dollars.
- A letter with information about raising tuition and the "whys" was distributed along with the 2026-2027 tuition grid. It was decided to tweak the letter and send it out to those signed up for "In the Loop" as well as distributing to all families through FACTS.

#### **Advancement Report – Natalie Hayden:**

- OCS is so blessed with an amazing community. A house on Dean Avenue was gifted by a donor and a quarter million-dollar endowed gift was received for tuition assistance.
- Natalie thanked Fr. Pat Reynolds for celebrating the Donor Mass on March 26<sup>th</sup> in the new Lady of the Assumption Chapel, with Fr. Brandon Williams and Fr. Daniel Dillard, as co-celebrants.
- Aces Night Out, March 28<sup>th</sup>, was very successful as both a fundraiser and as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Over \$68,000 was raised for OCS standability.
- Practice faciality will be completed soon – refinishing the donated used wood gym floor is on the schedule.

## **Enrollment – Jenny Glenn**

- Re-enrollment started March 1<sup>st</sup>. Returning students have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to complete enrollment without incurring a late fee. The Advancement team continues to assist families with their enrollment questions, and phoning families to encourage and remind everyone to avoid the late fees by completing enrollment in FACTS and Magnus. Advancement Team heard several suggestions from the Council members to help families remember to complete both requirements.

The Council members did not have any questions/concerns with the Maintenance, Health, or IT reports.

## **Each school principal highlighted the April and May calendars:**

**K-3 Campus:** New playground equipment arrived and is being installed this week.

Ag Day in April

**4-6 Campus:** Miss Kentucky's visit

Grandparents Day

Prayer Days

**OCMS:** Gr 6 Visit to OCMS

Award Ceremony

House Parties

**OCHS:** Prom venue change to Green River Distillery

Academic Honors

Spring Play – April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

Baccalaureate and Graduation

Fr. Pat Reynolds, OCS Episcopal Vicar, thanked and praised the Advancement Team, directed by Natalie Hayden, for their presentation at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish gathering of present and prospective OCS parents. Parents' concerns were addressed, as well as OCS information provided.

There were no questions or discussions items for May 2026's Education Advisory Council Meeting.

Fr. Reynolds closed the meeting with a prayer; meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.