

Meeting Summary – February 19, 2026

Summary:

Action Items

- [] Dawn to send security update in tomorrow's principal update
- [] Dawn to discuss AI usage with faculty at Monday's meeting and gather information on how teachers are using AI tools
- [] Dawn and Jennifer to explore potential guardrails for protecting personal information when teachers use AI platforms
- [] Dawn and Jennifer to consider whether AI usage should be addressed in faculty handbook
- [] Dawn and Jennifer to finalize handbook edits and create highlighted version showing substantive changes
- [] Dawn and Jennifer to create standalone documents for "top ten carpool rules" and "dress code at a glance"
- [] Mike and Ben to finalize parent survey questions and deploy after Easter

AI Usage Policy Discussion

- Council members raised concerns about teachers using AI to grade student work, particularly regarding data privacy when teachers use unpaid AI platforms
- Brian noted that students have usage restrictions but teachers currently have no formal guidelines, creating potential inconsistency
- Key concerns included: personal student information being uploaded to public AI platforms, lack of human oversight in grading, and ensuring AI-generated assessments align with actual curriculum taught
- Dawn acknowledged the school pays for Flint AI for grades 6-8, but teachers can also use other platforms like Co-Pilot with Microsoft
- Jennifer emphasized teachers are professionals who use AI to streamline processes while understanding their responsibility for content quality
- Council agreed education and standards are needed rather than restrictive policies, with focus on protecting student privacy while empowering teachers

Principal Updates

- Hiring for open positions is going very well, with candidates available before jobs were posted; several positions expected to be filled before Easter break

- CST (Catholic Social Teaching) program gaining recognition - diocese officials visited to observe CST Day as TFS is the only school implementing it in this way
- Eighth graders independently chose to volunteer at Carol's Kitchen after learning about it at CST Day
- World premiere of play by Chris Rappenstein happening next week; author visiting from New York to attend opening night and meet with all students
- Professional development participation increasing - eight teachers attended NC Ties technology conference, two attended NCTM math conference
- School now member of NCAIS offering affordable professional development opportunities at other independent schools
- Professional development budget is sufficient for the year with no requests denied

Handbook Review

- February minutes approved
- Dawn, Jennifer, and Colette reviewed handbook with council member feedback incorporated
- Plan to add opening paragraph about Franciscan identity and highlight substantive changes in yellow for parent scanning
- Key changes include: removing "short" and "long" suspension terminology to allow flexibility in handling individual situations
- Sacramental preparation section to remain broad as programs vary by parish
- Council suggested creating standalone reference documents like carpool rules and dress code summaries to complement handbook
- Stronger language recommended for parent responsibility to check RenWeb grades regularly

Enrollment and Retention

- School maintains consistent enrollment with 20-25 students leaving annually
- Main reasons for departure: relocation for jobs (Indiana, California, Texas, Wilmington), transition to Magellan charter school after third grade sacramental prep, occasional fit issues
- Several families relocating back to TFS after trying other schools
- Kindergarten enrollment lower due to decreased 2021 birth rates during COVID
- School receiving more applications from students with significant learning differences beyond available resources; must sometimes decline to remain true to current community

Parent Survey

- Mike and Ben to meet in next 2-3 weeks to finalize survey questions

- Plan to deploy after Easter with mostly same format as previous year, converting some fill-in responses to metric-based questions
- Previous survey led to implemented changes based on parent feedback

Reflections

- Father Chris shared two meaningful moments: students approaching him after Mass to share what they experienced, and the St. Joseph celebration where kindergarteners served donuts to their fathers after blessing them
- Father Chris emphasized these grace-filled moments demonstrate the unique gift of the TFS community