

AMHS
Board of Trustees Minutes
January 20, 2026
12pm – Heath Hall Conference Room

In Person / Zoom

Opening Prayer—Steve Schmutz

Roll call— Steve Schmutz took roll and a quorum was declared.

Present: Mike Burns, Anthony Fletcher, Heather Thomas-Murphy, Kim Gaffney, Angie Sievers, Bill Brooking, Rich Bacigalupi, Pam Schwartz, Mary Kelly, Alex McGinty, Nicole Codd, and Steve Schmutz.

Absent: Jason Cummings, Mindy Humphrey, Mytyl Hernandez, Denise Montoya, Jon Nehring, Jeff Cymbaluk, Nate Nehring

Approval of October Minutes— The board approved the minutes from the October meeting of the Board of Trustees over email in November as we did not hold a November board meeting.

Finance: Nicole Codd led a discussion on a proposed tuition rate for the 2026-2027 school year. She presented a study of the area Catholic and private school tuition rates, as well as a budget projection of a 5.5% tuition increase on a budget for the upcoming school year based on 460 students.

The board discussed a break even budget based on enrollment and discussed the current enrollment and projected enrollment based on where admissions applications are at the moment (155 applications; historically we convert 80% which would indicate an early forecast of 124 students with room to admit more over the coming months).

The discussion included estimates on facility needs, wage and benefit projections for faculty and staff, charging fees for ARC students, and a focus on marketing and communicating the ROI for an AMHS education. The board approved a tuition increase of 5.5%

Chair's Report—Mike Burns reviewed the three pillars of focus for the current school year: admissions, fundraising, and facilities. Fundraising is ahead of budget with the successful auction and strong start to the annual fund. The development office is looking at moving the winter auction to the spring for the upcoming school year.

The admissions committee is focused on how to impact the current admissions cycle but increasing applications and increasing the conversation rate. Planning for the upcoming cycle will involve looking at staffing in admissions and a more personal approach—the need to grow admissions to 500 student will have the greatest impact on the operating budget.

The facilities committee has secured an updated capital needs assessment to help with planning and prioritizing needed improvements and updates to facilities including HVAC, aging roofs, lower field lights (looking at grant opportunities and PUD rebates). The discussion included AMHS issuing bonds for capital projects.

Pam Schwartz provided an update on on WA State possibly agreeing to issue tax credit vouchers and the impact on AMHS. Fulcrum would be the recipient of the funds to distribute to schools. The Federal Scholarship Tax Credit will be discussed at an upcoming OCS hosted meeting in February or March.

School report: Steve provided an update on what is happening at AMHS. Next week is Catholic Schools week and we have Mass schedule for Thursday, January 29. Also scheduled for that day will be a recognition of the AMHS football state championship. Shelby Kremenich, the Community Liaison in Congresswoman Susan DelBene's office (WA-01), covering education issues and policy, is planning for a special visit and assembly at AMHS.

On January 29, the Congresswoman will visit Archbishop Murphy High School and present a Congressional Record to the students and/or staff for your 2A State Championship win. In December 2025, in conjunction with Rep. Larsen's office, the Congresswoman wrote and submitted a Congressional Record to honor AMHS' state football win

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the County Council will consider a resolution recognizing the AMHS football team at their 9:00 AM General Legislative Session.

Steve shared updates of the work of the admissions committee, which included a SWOT analysis activity last week. The admissions team will focus on the current funnel of applicants and those who have not completed an application. Direct reach outs between now and acceptance day and after acceptance day will focus on increasing the conversation rate. Marketing strategies include holding additional information sessions (one is scheduled for Friday, January 23), and being present at community events.

Steve is also promoting opportunities for faculty and staff to offer summer camps for elementary and middle school students to increase on campus visits and promote AMHS programs.

Five to six transfers coming in this semester, we will lose three or four. One is moving to Florida. One had a job transfer and the employer paid the second half of the contract. Two students left early for football opportunities and early enrollment in college.

Governance: Steve shared updates on the new counseling center—the board members were able to visit the space following the meeting. The AMHS table for Fulcrum is now full. There are no updates on the Boys and Girls Club opportunity with the field house.

Facilities / Security / Technology: Mike reviewed the recent committee meeting. Currently, the needs exceed our resources. HVAC, Lower Field Lights—we were turned down for a grant from the Seahawks. PUD is coming forward with opportunities for rebates on the lights.

Advancement: The annual report will land this month as well as electronically. Day of Giving in February will support the annual fund. New opportunities with the STAR event with the new development team—ensure everyone understands it is a fundraiser.

Alumni: Alex McGinty reported on the selection of Brent McCann '04 as alumni of the year for the STAR. Recent polling of alumni has been done to determine ways to get alumni more engaged—interest in career engagement and student services.

Long Range Planning and Innovation: The committee met in December and January to work on the strategic plan in concert with the accreditation self-study and accreditation goals. AMHS should have the areas of focus for the accreditation ready for review in February.

New Business and closing remarks: Mike shared the recent AMHS communication that highlighted AMHS in the news—great work from Bobby Kubacki on this addition to the Monday newsletter.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 18, 2026 on Zoom at 6pm