

Columbus Catholic Schools
Board of Directors - Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023

Columbus Catholics Schools Board Chair Matt Niedbalski called the board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and presided over the meeting at St. Bonaventure School. Board members present: Heidi Field, Peg Niedbalski, Matt Niedbalski, Tara Sjuts, Sarah Pillen, Dennis Grennan, Paige Young, Jay Pelan, and T.J. Thiem. Administrators present: Jeff Ohnoutka (CCS President/Executive Director), Brady Vancura (Scotus Principal), Amy Sokol (St. Anthony Principal), Amy Evans (St. Isidore Principal), and Cheryl Zoucha (St. Bonaventure Principal). John Schueth and Erin Schmidt (Development Office) were also present. Absent board members: None. No visitors were present.

The meeting opened with prayer and reflection led by Permanent Deacon Dan Keiter followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to approve agenda made by Paige Young, seconded by Dennis Grennan and, after an opportunity for discussion, carried unanimously without objection. Motion to approve minutes of September 2023 meeting made by Peg Niedbalski, seconded by Paige Young, and, after an opportunity for discussion, carried unanimously without objection.

HANDOUTS – (1) Executive Director Report; (2) St. Bonaventure’s School Principal Report; (3) Advancement Office Report; (4) Financial Committee Report; (5) Mission Integration Committee Report.

VISITOR RECOGNITION/CORRESPONDENCE/INTRODUCTIONS – None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (in addition to submitted printed reports in board packets) – Mr. Ohnoutka reported on the coffee talks he is using to advise the community as to the origination of the process to form CCS, explain important roles committees will play in moving the collaboration forward, and receiving feedback from attendees. Mrs. Zoucha presented her principal report (St. Bonaventure’s School) and responded to questions from board members on students transferring into the school, enrollment retention, special education resources, student testing, as well as challenges of different tracks of students depending on grade level resulting from varying class sizes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (in addition to submitted printed reports in board packets) –

- A. Advancement Committee Report: Committee Chair Peg Niedbalski and Dennis Grennan presented a report and were available to respond to questions from board members. John Schueth and Erin Schmidt updated the board on continued SEF campaign progress and responded to questions from board members. Dennis Grennan also presented that the committee is continuing discussion of establishing guidelines to promote further collaboration between fundraising events for both schools and parishes as well as CCS affiliated accounts. Following said discussion, Heidi Field made a motion to direct the Advancement Committee to compile and present a list to the board at the November meeting of all CCS affiliated accounts. The motion was seconded by T.J. Thiem and, after opportunity for further discussion, carried unanimously without objection.

- B. Facilities Committee Report: Committee Chair Jay Pelan was available to respond to questions from board members. Committee will be meeting prior to next board meeting.
- C. Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair Sarah Pillen presented written report and stated the finance committee met the morning of the board meeting and will be continuing to discuss Phase 2 recommendations to bring to the board in the future. Following the report, Jay Pelan made a Motion, which was seconded by Dennis Grennan, to approve the financial report for each school/cafeteria for September. After an opportunity for discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Mission Integration Committee Report: Committee Chair Matt Niedbalski presented a report and was available to respond to questions from board members. The four CCS principals shared how each campus will measure success in reading comprehension for their school improvement process. The committee also recommended approval for the initiatives related to Goal #1 of the Mission Integration strategic plan regarding the school improvement process.

OLD BUSINESS – Strategic Plan Update – Jeff Ohnoutka reported that following discussion in the upcoming committee meetings, recommendations will be prepared for consideration and approval by board members at the upcoming board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA –

- A. Regular Meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 20, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Isidore’s School.
- B. Items for the Agenda: (1) Strategic Plan for CCS; (2) Report of St. Isidore’s School Principal; (3) Special Education resources overview; and (3) Other matters, if any, to be determined by the Executive Committee.

Peg Niedbalski moved, and Dennis Grennan seconded, the motion to adjourn and, after an opportunity for discussion, the motion carried unanimously, and Chairperson Matt Niedbalski adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason D. Mielak, Secretary