

Columbus Catholic Schools
Board of Directors - Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024

Columbus Catholic Schools' Board Chair Matt Niedbalski called the board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and presided over the meeting at Scotus Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School. Board members present: Peg Niedbalski, Matt Niedbalski, Tara Sjuts, Sarah Pillen, Jay Pelan, Paige Young, Dennis Grennan, and T.J. Thiem. Administrators present: Jeff Ohnoutka (CCS President/Executive Director, Brady Vancura (Scotus Principal), Amy Sokol (St. Anthony Principal) and Cheryl Zoucha (St. Bonaventure Principal). Absent board members: None. Motion to excuse absent board: not applicable. No visitors were present. Amy Evans (St. Isidore Principal) was absent.

The meeting opened with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to approve agenda, as amended, made by Paige Young, seconded by Tara Sjuts and, after an opportunity for discussion, carried unanimously without objection. Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting made by Peg Niedbalski, seconded by Dennis Grennan, and, after an opportunity for discussion, carried unanimously without objection.

HANDOUTS – (1) Executive Director Report; (2) Advancement Committee Report; (3) Facility Committee Report; (4) School Assessments/ACT; (5) Financial Committee Reports; (6) Mission Integration Committee Report; and (7) Wellness Policy.

VISITOR RECOGNITION/CORRESPONDENCE/INTRODUCTIONS – None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (in addition to submitted printed reports in board packets) – Executive director presented his written report and emphasized recent employment changes in campus ministry and Spanish classes. Mr. Ohnoutka also indicated an upcoming event focusing on improving family engagement in Catholic schools provided by the Archdiocese of Omaha. Finally, Mr. Ohnoutka reported the Scotus graduation function went well and thanked those able to attend and support in making it a positive event.

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

- A. Advancement Committee Report: Committee Chair Peg Niedbalski presented a report following their committee meeting and was available to respond to questions from board members. The 2024 Scotus Gala was reported to be a huge success and appreciation was extended to all those responsible for their work and generosity to make it a successful annual event. Discussion was also had regarding exploring overall scrip program for each school prior to making a recommendation as to whether it would be a benefit to combine into one program.

- B. Facilities Committee Report: Committee Chair Jay Pelan reported on visits to elementary school and Scotus campuses to identify 5-year facility needs. Recommendations will be forthcoming to prioritize items for completion. Board members expressed a desire to continue to prioritize safety recommendations identified for each campus.

- C. Finance Committee Report: Committee Chair Sarah Pillen stated the finance committee met the morning of the board meeting and provided written financial reports to the CCS board and was available to answer questions related to the same. As the fiscal year end approaches, Ms. Pillen reported that Scotus is expected to end within budget and the elementary schools may run a surplus. If so, the finance committee will discuss and present recommendations to the CCS board regarding handling of any surplus funds. Following the report, Jay Pelan made a Motion, which was seconded by Dennis Grennan, to approve the financial report for each school/cafeteria. After an opportunity for discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Mission Integration Committee Report: Committee Chair Matt Niedbalski reported that no committee meeting was held in the prior month. Survey responses were presented and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- A. Eakes Agreement – Executive Director presented a consolidated 48-month CCS agreement for the use and maintenance of printers/copiers at Scotus and the elementary schools. Following the report, Peg Niedbalski made a Motion, which was seconded by T.J. Thiem, to approve the Eakes agreement as presented and authorize CCS officers to execute and take all action necessary to effectuate the same. After an opportunity for discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Wellness Policy – Executive Director presented a written Tri-Annual Wellness Policy for CCS board review and was available to respond to questions from CCS board members. Following the report and discussion, T.J. Thiem made a Motion, which was seconded by Sarah Pillen, to approve the Tri-Annual Wellness Policy, as amended. After an opportunity for discussion, the Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Assessments – Scotus President Brady Vancura presented report on ACT results in comparison to graduating class which was first to take Pre-ACT as sophomores. The average composite score was a 22.7 for the current graduating class with 43 of 54 seniors taking the ACT test. Pre-ACT results for current classes as well as STAR testing breakdown was also presented. Elementary school principals in attendance also presented report on assessment test results (STAR, Lexia, and Acadience) for elementary students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA –

- A. Regular Meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 17, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Scotus Central Catholic.
- B. Items for Future Agenda: (1) Year in Review; (2) 2024-25 Enrollment Projections; and (3) Other matters, if any, to be determined by the Executive Committee.

T.J. Thiem moved, and Dennis Grennan seconded, the motion to adjourn and, after an opportunity for discussion, the motion carried unanimously, and Chair Matt Niedbalski adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason D. Mielak, Secretary