

Columbus Catholic Schools
Board of Directors - Meeting Minutes
August 19, 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, Dennis Grennan, Jordan Paitz and T.J. Thiem. Administrators present: Jeff Ohnoutka (CCS President/Executive Director), Brady Vancura (Scotus Principal), Amy Evans (St. Isidore Principal), Amy Sokol (St. Anthony Principal) and Cheryl Zoucha (St. Bonaventure Principal). Absent board members: None. No visitors were present.

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

HANDOUTS – (1) Executive Director Report; (2) Advancement Committee Report; (3) Facility Committee Report; (4) Financial Committee Reports; (5) Mission Integration Committee Report; and (6) Board of Directors Committee Assignments.

VISITOR RECOGNITION/CORRESPONDENCE/INTRODUCTIONS – None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (in addition to submitted printed reports in board packets) – Executive director presented his written report and was available to answer questions. Mr. Ohnoutka explained CCS is exploring an order of sisters for the local community and what role they could play for CCS in the future. Principals of each of the schools provided initial student enrollment totals as follows: Scotus Jr./Sr. High (389); St. Isidore's (208); St. Anthony's (84); and St. Bonaventure's (200).

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. Peg Niedbalski also reported new committee members and progress on unified form for scrip program. Reviewed initial draft of annual report as well as needs and draft fundraising plan.
- B. Facilities Committee Report: Committee Chair Jay Pelan presented a report following their committee meeting and was available to respond to questions from the board members. Jay Pelan also indicated needs would be explored and reported on at the next board meeting.
- 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. Sarah Pillen explained Archdiocese of Omaha will begin requiring monthly financial statements instead of only quarterly. Further, Sarah Pillen stated the committee was having ongoing discussions regarding responsibilities for varying categories of facility expenses between CCS and the parishes. 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 presented a report following their committee meeting was available to answer questions from Board members. Further, Matt Niedbalski noted positive initial feedback on new technology-related initiatives.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

- A. Election of Board Members – Motion made by Matt Niedbalski, seconded by Peg Niedbalski, to elect the following slate of members to the Board to serve three (3) year terms: Jordan Paitz, T.J. Thiem, and Paige Young.
- B. Strategic Plan – 2 Year Review – Executive Director presented a written report and was available for questions regarding the same. This included report on faculty changes and future recruitment opportunities as well as family engagement in Catholic education. Mr. Ohnoutka also noted a need to continue to review the tuition model to help ensure future financial viability as well as examination of frequency of fundraising events and development of endowment opportunities. Safety audit will be completed in the coming days and discussed further at the next board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA –

- A. Regular Meeting – The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 16, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's.
- B. Items for Future Agenda – (1) St. Anthony and Scotus Principal Reports; (2) Security Report; (3) Scholarship Report; and (4) Other matters, if any, to be determined by the Executive Committee.

T.J. Thiem moved, and Tara Sjuts seconded, a motion to adjourn and, after an opportunity for discussion, the motion carried unanimously, and Chair Matt Niedbalski adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason D. Mielak, Secretary