



Cotter Schools Board of Directors
September 26, 2023

Board Members present: Amy Donnenwerth, Meg Krinke, Barry McRaith, Mary Kirk, Christina Uribe Nitti, Erica Jerowski, Kurt Knuesel, Kevin Gorman, Jennifer Miller Gutierrez, Ann Renk, Mary Kirk, Mary Eileen Fitch, and Dawn Guzzo

Board Members not present Fr. Mark McNea, Fr. Pat Arens

Meeting called to order by Board Chair, Amy Donnenwerth at 7:30 a.m. Prayer was led by Amy Donnenwerth.

CEU Community Member Volunteer Approval: Parent Volunteer, Amy Fish, electronic Board of Directors vote approval, received 9-7-2023

Agenda: The 9-26-23 Agenda was reviewed and approved

Minutes: The following Minutes were reviewed and approved:

Board of Directors minutes: 8-29-23

Committee minutes: Mission Effectiveness (9-14-23), Operational Vitality (9-19-23)

Amy welcomed three of our Cotter staff members, Marisa Corcoran, Laura Lorenz and Charles Miller. Marisa explained that they are currently enrolled in the Christ the Teacher, Master's Degree Program through St. Mary's University and that one of their assignments was to observe a Board of Directors meeting. They expressed their appreciation and personally introduced themselves and what roles they have here at Cotter.

Our board members also introduced themselves, what roles they have on the board, their students at Cotter, if any, and what positions they hold in the community.

Committee Reports:

Operational Vitality Committee: The 9-19-23 meeting minutes had been posted for the board to review. Erica was asked to explain a few additional items of note about the new software capacities that Cotter will be purchasing enabling the Business Office to provide better financial data.

Governance – Meg Krinke

No report at this time. The first Governance meeting will be October 10.

Mission Effectiveness – Amy Donnenwerth

The 9-14-23 meeting Minutes had been posted for the board to review and there were no follow up questions or comments.

Advancement – Christina Uribe Nitti

No report at this time. The first Advancement meeting will be September 28.

President's Report: The confidential President's Report had been posted for the board to review and Mary Eileen shared the following additional information:

- As to our enrollment numbers, Mary Eileen provided further explanation as to why some of our students unenrolled, such as due to full time PSEO, moving, activities, and we did have two sizable families who left. Mary Eileen also assured the board that we do conduct follow up communications with each family who leaves as to their reasons and collect that data for our records.
- We have had internal Master Facility Plan meetings, and we will be looking to expand and include external members of the committee in the coming months. Barry McRaith and Kurt Knuesel offered their membership on the committee.
- There were follow up questions as to the request for the \$1 million dollar grant from Ashley Furniture to St. Mary's, Cotter and Lourdes for the Pre-Engineering and Mechatronics course work for high school students. As to potential staffing challenges, Mary Eileen shared the options that had been explored before and how there had, unfortunately, not been solutions at that time. However, were we to collectively receive the grant; we would certainly pursue all options again.

Cotter Good News:

Laura Lorenz shared how wonderful the Reading Buddies Program has been going between the 4th graders and the 3-year-old preschoolers and shared a photo with everyone.

Marisa Corcoran spoke of the 9th grade retreat that happened earlier this month and the 10th grade retreat that will take place this Friday.

Ann Renk spoke about her son who now lives in Chicago and coincidentally lives near the church where he remembers doing one of his weekend service projects with Cotter and how it has brought back memories for him.

Regular meeting adjourned. Board entered into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Guzzo
Secretary