Cotter Schools Board of Directors
September 24, 2024

Board Members present: Amy Donnenwerth, Erica Jerowski, Barry McRaith, Kurt Knuesel, Jennifer Miller Gutierrez, Ann Renk, Tom DeMarais, Shelley Stewart, Andrew Kieffer, Mary Eileen Fitch, and Dawn Guzzo

Board Members not present: Father McNea, Father Arens, Father Russ, Kevin Gorman

Board Chair, Amy Donnenwerth, called the meeting to order at 7:31 am. Jennifer Miller Gutierrez led our prayer.

Agenda**:** There was a review of the 9-24-24 Agenda. Barry McRaith made a motion to approve the Agenda; Shelley Stewart made a second. Motion passed.

The following Minutes were reviewed:
Board of Directors minutes (8-27-24)
Committee Minutes:
Mission Effectiveness (9/13/24)
Operational Vitality (9/17/24)

Barry McRaith made a motion to approve the Minutes; Andy Kieffer made a second. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Operational Vitality Committee:
Our Committee Chair reported that our Financial Director continues to report on the ongoing transition to Skyward and that there have been some surprises that have come up during the transition such as coding inaccuracies. The upside is that there is a large increase in detailed codes being utilized in Skyward and allocations will be more accurate going forward.

Mary Eileen reported an update as to our boarding students; in particular, the amount of substantial aid that our boarding students are receiving this year. Mary Eileen has met with our Boarding Admissions Director to discuss the potential for more focus placed on families who could pay more closely to our full tuition; however, he expressed several concerns and believes that this will continue to be a struggle. The question at hand is whether we continue on the path of having an increased number of boarding students even if it means that the amount of financial aid is considerable vs having a harder line on what financial aid we allow and running the risk of having much fewer boarding students.

We will ask our Finance Director to report on our bottom line for our 2024-2025 boarding students. This topic will be brought back for further updates and discussion at the October meeting.

Mary Eileen also reported that our Annual Appeal should go out by October 1. We will provide an update at our next meeting.

Governance:
The Governance Chair reported that we have received everyone's signed document of the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy from all members with the exception of one. Efforts are being made to communicate with this member.

The Board of Directors then moved into Executive Session.

The Board of Directors then moved back into Regular Session.

Our BOD Retreat will be Friday, December 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mary Eileen has reached out to our benefactors and they are hopeful they can join us for a short time at the beginning of the retreat for introductions and light conversation.

Mission Effectiveness:
The September Mission Effectiveness minutes reflected Mission Effectiveness's strategy for working on Year 3 of our Strategic Plan, also the vision of what we hope to see in Year 5. Board members were invited to respond with questions or comments after review of the committee's minutes.

President's Report: The confidential President's Report had been posted for the board to review and Mary Eileen made the following comments at today's meeting:

- Our school year has gotten off to a great start. There is a lot of great energy in all of our buildings.
- Many new events were planned for the week of Homecoming and all reports are that they were very successful. Our Homecoming parade was a huge success and was enjoyed by our students at all grade levels. We also held our annual Athletic Hall of Fame event and enjoyed having our alumni back on campus.
- We have reached out to some community members that have specific expertise who we feel could really help us with our Master Facility Plan. We have at least three community members who have accepted a position on this committee and we hope to meet soon.
- We may explore the possibility of moving MCA to a separate entity. There have been some challenges that have arisen with our Winona community who take instruction there and we can foresee these challenges being a concern in the future as well.

The Board of Directors then moved into Executive Session.

The Board of Directors then moved back into Regular Session.

Amy thanked everyone for attending our meeting today. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guzzo, Secretary