Cotter Schools Board of Directors
November 26, 2024

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

Board Members not present: All members present

Board Chair, Amy Donnenwerth, called the meeting to order at 7:32 am. Father McNea led our prayer.

Agenda**:** There was a review of the 11-26-24 Agenda. Barry McRaith made a motion to approve the Agenda; Ann Renk made a second. Motion passed.

The following Minutes were reviewed:
Board of Directors minutes (10-29-24)
Committee Minutes:
Governance (10/8/24)
Operational Vitality (10/22/24)

Barry McRaith made a motion to approve the Minutes; Shelley Stewart made a second. Motion passed.

Advancement Update – Mike Swenson

Mike presented to the board on several items including current marketing and recruitment efforts at St. Luke. He also spoke about our Fall Appeal that had recently gone out and about our Annual Report that is scheduled to go out within the next couple of weeks. Mike made special note that our admissions have gone up 64.3% over the past decade.

His team is also looking at refreshing some of our auction items for the spring Cotter Auction and encouraged our board members to brainstorm as to potential businesses in our community who may be willing to contribute an auction item.

Mike asked for board members who would be willing to make 'Thank You' calls to some of our contributors. A script with talking points will be provided. He felt it would be meaningful for some of our donors to receive personal calls from our board members.

Committee Reports:

Operational Vitality Committee:
Our Committee Chair reported that Merchant's Bank joined our November Operational Vitality meeting and presented their 3rd quarter CSF Endowment report. There is currently over 8M within the endowment and the committee is comfortable with how it is being managed. Cotter Schools

continues to follow the same draw formula that CSF originally had in place. There was a question as to whether our Advancement Team should reconnect with some of the CSF members to provide some updates and again extend our appreciation for the endowment that was left to us.

Governance:
The Governance Committee Chair reported that the next committee meeting will be in December. Our Board Retreat will be held Friday, December 6, and members were encouraged to arrive at 8:30 for coffee and donuts and to greet our benefactors, if possible.

Mission Effectiveness:
Our Mission Effectiveness Committee Chair reported that there are several people working within subcommittees and that everyone is doing a really great job identifying strategic plan goals and doing the work necessary to accomplish them.

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:

- Work within our Advancement Department continues. We are currently trying to analyze the potential benefit of hiring an additional position to assume some of Mike's tasks allowing him more time to concentrate on donor relationships. We are also looking at potentially hiring an outside firm for some of our marketing and/or solicitation needs. Fundraising is a continuous challenge as our cost to educate continues to rise.

- Our Athletic Department hosted a Signing Day recently. It was very well done and Cotter is very proud of the students who were recognized; these particular students have strong character traits and have shown great representation for Cotter. This was a new format that celebrated all students who were committed to college athletics on a single day rather than each on their own day. We received very positive feedback from our students, families and staff on this new format.

Amy thanked everyone for attending our meeting today. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guzzo, Secretary