



Board of Education Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025
Administration Office

Members Present: Rick Bertrand, Ben Uhl, Fr. Brad Pelzel, Joe Malsam, Dan Kriener, Jennifer Rose Bass, Jacki Kelly, Fr. Randy Schon, Nick Hegarty, Rhonda Bridges, Fr. David Esquiliano

Via Conference Call: Fr. Tim Friedrichsen

Staff Present: John Flanery, Kelsey Schomaker, Marisa O'Connell, Chris Bork

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. David Esquiliano 5:00 p.m.
2. Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes
 - Motion by: Jennifer Rose Bass
 - Seconded by: Nick Hegarty
 - All in Favor: Aye
3. Guest – Laura Grebasch, Bishop Heelan High School Teacher
 - Shared concerns regarding starting salary for new teachers in comparison to salaries of tenured teachers
4. Guest – Maria Gonzalez, former BHCS parent
 - Shared concerns about BHCS policies when accounts are turned over to Collection agency
5. Guests – Grant Wetz, Sara Karpuk, Pat Berger, Kevin Schultz, Mandi Kuehl
 - Discussion regarding 2025/26 tuition model for South Dakota families
 - Families felt that the tuition changes were not effectively communicated
 - Concerned that BHCS may be alienating South Dakota families
 - Families would prefer tuition to be frozen for 2025-26 school year. Family representatives would like to attend meetings regarding future tuition rates/models.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance - Kelsey Schomaker and Nick Hegarty – see attachments
 - Tuition Receivables
 - \$487,585 reduction in A/R
 - 169 students on enrollment hold
 - Parish Receivables
 - Received all parishes February investment
 - Personnel update regarding Accountant position
 - Holly Sitzmann hired and will start on Monday, February 24th
 - 2025-26 Budget Update
 - Teacher contracts ready first week of March
 - Will know open positions after contracts are sent
 - Draft budget in April with final budget in May
 - BHCS contracts are 4-6 weeks earlier than other area schools

- Tuition – South Dakota & Nebraska
 - Prior 2 years tuition for Nebraska and South Dakota were frozen at the below rates:
 - PK - \$5,200
 - Elementary - \$6,700
 - High School - \$8,900
 - AGI adjustment applied where applicable
- 2025-26 Tuition Model – South Dakota & Nebraska
 - PK - \$5,400
 - K – 12th Grade - \$10,200
 - Returning students and new Catholic families could be eligible for a 7.6% Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) tuition discount, not to exceed the ESA amount of approximately \$8,000 and a minimum of \$3,000 per child. Those that qualify for minimum tuition will pay up to 2 children. Those who do not qualify for minimum will pay up to 3 children.
 - Leave 2025-26 Tuition Model as planned
 - Motion by: Rick Bertrand
 - Seconded by: No Second Motion
 - Motion Failed
 - 2025-26 Tuition 7.6% AGI Model with Maximum out of pocket as outlined
 - PK - \$6,700
 - Elementary - \$7,400
 - High School - \$8,000
 - Minimum - \$3,000
 - 2026-27 All Student Maximum out of pocket would match the ESA Amount
 - Motion by: Rick Bertrand
 - Seconded by: Ben Uhl
 - Roll Call Vote:
 - In Favor – Rick Bertrand, Joe Malsam, Fr. Brad Pelzel, Ben Uhl, Rhonda Bridges
 - Opposed – Nick Hegarty, Fr. Randy Schon, Fr. David Esquiliano, Dan Kriener, Jennifer Rose Bass, Jacki Kelly
 - Abstained – Fr. Tim Friedrichsen
 - Motion Failed
 - 2025-26 Tuition 7.6% AGI Model
 - Returning students and new Catholic families are eligible for a 7.6% Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) tuition discount, with a minimum of \$3,000 per child. Those who qualify for minimum will pay up to 2 children. Those who do not qualify for minimum will pay up to 3 children.
 - K - 8th grade: \$10,200 discounted to \$7,000
 - High School: \$10,200 discounted to \$8,000
 - Minimum - \$3,000
 - New non-Catholic families will pay full tuition with no tuition assistance available.
 - Motion by: Jennifer Rose Bass
 - Seconded by: Dan Kriener
 - Roll Call Vote:
 - In Favor – Rick Bertrand, Joe Malsam, Fr. Brad Pelzel, Ben Uhl Rhonda, Nick Hegarty, Fr. Randy Schon, Fr. David Esquiliano, Dan Kriener, Jennifer Rose Bass, Jacki Kelly, Fr. Tim Friedrichsen

- Opposed - None

b. Academics – Joe Malsam

- Meeting was held on February 12, 2025
- Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025
- Extensive discussion regarding more students being enrolled that require additional assistance
- The need for more ESL and resource teachers along with paras is increasing
- Assessment of students needs to be completed before they move into our school system
- If a parent drops their child from an IEP (their goals have not been met) and moves the child to a 504 plan, then all services are dropped. A 504 plan is not a legal option (Iowa law).

c. Catholic Identity – Jacki Kelly

- Meeting was held and minutes will be presented at March Board meeting

d. Enrollment and Marketing – Jennifer Rose Bass - see attached minutes

e. Leadership & Governance – Ben Uhl

- No update

7. President's Report

a. Marian Hall – Diocese property – see attached document

- 9 fully contained, furnished apartments, 8 garages, community spaces, elevator and chapel
- BHCS uses include faculty and staff housing, foundations classroom, storage and alumni/guest relations
- Select option 4B Lease for a year at \$3,500/month. \$2,000 would go towards purchase. Requested to re-negotiate purchase price and/or pursue rebate.
 - Motion by: Ben Uhl
 - Seconded by: Nick Hegarty
 - Opposed: Fr. Randy Schon, Jennifer Rose Bass, Rick Bertrand
 - In Favor: Nick Hegarty, Fr. Brad Pelzel, Fr. David Esquiliano, Fr. Tim Friedrichsen, Ben Uhl, Joe Malsam, Dan Kriener, Jacki Kelly, Rhonda Bridges

b. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar approval

- Motion by: Nick Hegarty
- Seconded by: Fr. David Esquiliano
- All in Favor: Aye

c. Strategic Planning Committee

- System administration worked on Draft 1. Board member feedback was received via email. Full board discussion and planning on February 24th or 25th

d. Advancement – see attached documents

- 2024 MLTF final numbers slightly higher than last year
- “Venmo Valentine” annual fund ask was good for public relation
- Auction update
 - Thursday, April 10th, 2025 – “Cowboy up Crusaders”!
 - Fund-a-cause will be “Walk of Faith” sidewalk and steps

e. Enrollment Updates

- Students enrolled - 821
- Registration windows have been established

- Current families: February 3 – March 16
 - New Catholic families: March 17 – April 15
 - All open enrollment: April 16
- Discover Heelan night and upcoming PK and K Open House events are scheduled
- f. Smart Gen Society presentations on February 10th and 11th. See feedback from high school survey

8. Other Business

- High School Senior student lost his mother and is living at principal's home
- Building principals and John agreed on 2 hour late starts instead of closing school due to weather
- Father John Keehner will be replacing Bishop Walker Nickless as the new Bishop for the Diocese of Sioux City
- Executive Committee meeting will be at noon on Thursday, March 6th
- Move to Executive Session: 7:58 p.m.
 - Motion by: Jacki Kelly
 - Seconded by: Fr. Randy Schon
 - All in Favor: Aye
- Move out of Executive Session: 8:11 p.m.
 - Motion by: Ben Uhl
 - Seconded by: Nick Hegarty
 - All in Favor: Aye
- Move to Adjourn: 8:12 p.m.
 - Motion by: Fr. David Esquiliano
 - Seconded by: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - All in Favor: Aye

Next meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.