



Board of Education Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025
Administration Office

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

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: John Flanery, Kelsey Schomaker, Marisa O'Connell, Mary Fischer, Principal at Mater Dei, Erin Chute, Principal at Sacred Heart

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Tim Friedrichsen
2. Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes
 - Motion by: Jennifer Rose Bass
 - Seconded by: Fr. David Esquiliano
 - All in Favor: Aye
3. Guests
 - Mary Fischer, Principal at Mater Dei
 - School Highlights
 - 3rd & 4th graders meet with Dubuque Nuns
 - Family groups for faith sharing after Thursday mass
 - Adopt families at Christmas
 - Then Feed Just One participation
 - Special guests – Bandits, Jim Tillman with NAACP, Jacob Bossman
 - Quiz bowl participation (186 quizzes were taken, 90% passed)
 - Erin – Principal at Sacred Heart
 - Faith
 - Crusader of the Month (recognized for virtues)
 - Carlos Acutis Canonization Celebration
 - Family
 - Diversity Committee - Connecting with other cultural groups
 - Knowledge
 - Collaboration with Sioux City regarding IEP students
 - STEM – Curriculum, Instruction, and Awards
 - Service
 - Morning buddies - partner older children with younger children
 - Visit Holy Spirit Nursing Home once a month
 - Won KTIV contest – prize is trip to Arnolds Park
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Academics – Joe Malsam
 - Did not meet

- b. Catholic Identity – Jacki Kelly
 - Did not meet
- c. Enrollment and Marketing – Jennifer Rose Bass - see attached minutes
 - Will do yard signs saying “I registered my kid” before the ESA application closes
 - Rebecca Armstrong is working on an annual marketing report
 - Morningside neighborhood party will be hosted by John and Mindy Stevens and held on May 28th
- d. Finance - Kelsey Schomaker and Nick Hegarty
 - Tuition receivables
 - Monthly reduction of A/R - \$421,250
 - Delinquent accounts - \$161,000
 - Parish receivable
 - See attached
 - Budget – update
 - Reviewed the first draft of the 2025-26 budget
 - Budgeted student number – 1667 (flat enrollment)
 - Reviewed revenue and other funding details
 - Expenses
 - Primary focus on expenses are on staff wages and benefits
 - Adding 6 additional faculty positions
 - Projected 3% increases across operating expenses
 - Major and minor purchases outlined
 - Discussed busing and rising costs
 - John to provide numbers of students riding buses
 - BHCS school board designated buckets
 - Reviewed the outlined buckets that were recommended by the tuition, executive, and finance committees
- e. Leadership & Governance – Ben Uhl
 - Did not meet

5. President's Report

- a. Advancement
 - 2024-2025 – no updated documentation this month
 - Auction preliminary update
 - Cowboy Up Crusaders! Results
 - Tickets sold - 506 tickets
 - Funds raised - \$1,000,056
 - Fund-a-cause – Walk of Faith – did not meet goal, but anticipate a board request to use auction proceeds for the project
- b. Enrollment updates – see documentation
 - New Catholic family enrollment will close - April 15th
 - All new family enrollment starts – April 16th
 - ESA opens April 16th
 - Students enrolled as of today - 1487
 - Students on financial enrollment hold - 81
 - Students on hold as of a year ago, April 2024 - 300
 - Anticipated ESA amount - \$7,988
- c. Tuition – Nebraska and South Dakota forum
 - Total of 22 individuals attended the 2 events
 - Plan to develop a group or task force to come up suggestions for tuition committee regarding the tuition model
- d. Staff updates
 - Holy Cross Principal search
 - Potential candidate scheduled to meet with staff
 - Open teaching positions in our buildings
 - Hired 5 of 6 openings Bishop Heelan High School

- 15 of 23 open staff positions have been filled
- e. Tech needs at the parishes
 - Tabled agenda item

6. Other Business:

- Tuesday, April 22nd at 4:00 Jennifer Rose Bass and Kelsey Schomaker will attend City Zoning Commission meeting. School neighbor has asked the city to vacate an alley next to our property
- Ben Uhl discussed presentations to high school students from Stacy Besch about human trafficking
- Move to Executive Session: 6:48 pm
 - Motion by: Brad Pelzel
 - Seconded by: Nick Hegarty
 - All in Favor: Aye
- Move out of Executive Session: 7:08 pm
 - Motion by: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - Seconded by: Ben Uhl
 - All in Favor: Aye
- Move to Adjourn: 7:09 pm
 - Motion by: Fr. Brad Pelzel
 - Seconded by: Nick Hegarty
 - All in Favor: Aye

Next meeting Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.