Cotter Schools Board of Directors
October 28, 2025

Board Members present: Amy Donnenwerth, Barry McRaith, Erica Jerowski, Shelley Stewart, Andrew Kieffer, Kurt Knuesel, Tom DeMarais, Kevin Gorman, Eric Errthum, Tom DeMarais (remote), Andrew Guzzo (remote), Mary Eileen Fitch and Dawn Guzzo

Board Members not present: Jennifer Miller Gutierrez

Board Chair, Erica Jerowski, called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. Mary Eileen led our prayer.

Agenda**:** There was a review of the 10-28-25 Agenda. Shelley Stewart made a motion to approve the Agenda; Kevin Gorman made a second. Motion passed.

The following Minutes were reviewed:
Board of Directors minutes (9-30-25)
Committee Minutes:
Mission Effectiveness (10-10-25)
Governance (10-14-25)
Operational Vitality (10-21-25)

Kevin Gorman made a motion to approve the Minutes; Amy Donnenwerth made a second. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Operational Vitality Committee:
Our Committee Chair noted the following highlights from the October meeting:

- Discussions will continue in November as to any potential tuition increases for next year. We hope to bring the final proposal to the Board in December due to tuition rates being released in January.
- Slaggie Capital presented their quarterly report on our Cotter endowment investments, also presenting on future investment strategies as well as plans to draft an updated Investment Policy.

Board members were invited to ask any questions they may have following the review of the October Operational Vitality meeting minutes.

Governance:
Our Governance Chair reminded the Board of our Retreat on December 12 and noted that one of the discussion topics will be the role in which we play as an Independent Catholic School. The Board may slightly alter the President Evaluation Process. Board members were invited to ask any questions they may have following the review of the October Governance meeting minutes.

Mission Effectiveness:
Our last meeting included presentations by our Advancement Team and Campus Ministry as to their goals as they relate to our Strategic Plan. Board members were then invited to ask any questions they may have following the review of the September Mission Effectiveness meeting 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:

- Elementary Testing Scores: Elementary Fall testing scores were shared with the board. These results play a large piece in determining students who may need intervention as well as identifying gaps that we hope to improve on.
- CNA Updates: Several Cotter representatives toured Winona Health and left with the donation of a practice mannequin. Winona Health may be able to share additional supplies with us in the future. One benefit of our CNA Program is that it will allow our students who have completed the course, to be directly admitted into a nursing program.
- Lourde Demolition Update: The hauling away of demolition materials will hopefully be done by mid-November. The athletic facility planning is currently in a holding pattern as we wait for detailed financial specifics.
  At our last meeting, we spoke about the the finding of a functioning sewer pipe that was not disclosed to us at the time of purchase. Although, we originally were told that it would be in our best interest to relocate this pipe, it is now the recommendation that the pipe be upgraded and remain in its current location. The City will potentially cover some of the replacement costs. We will find out more information later this week.

Our President then requested that the meeting move into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guzzo, Secretary