

Bishop Neumann School Advisory Board

Minutes

November 15, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Members:

Rachelle Benkusky	Valparaiso	Tammy Sassaman—Board President
Karla Lechtenberg	Davey	John Kreikemeier—Principal
Connie Thulin	Prague and Plasi	Sister Janelle Buettner—Assistant Principal
Mary Tenopir	Colon and Cedar Bluffs	
Steven Sladky	Wahoo	
Dan Hoss	Wahoo	
Jennifer Whitney	Mead	
Jordon Kavan	Weston Touhy	

Call Meeting to Order: President—Sassaman called meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Tammy Sassaman, Karla Lechtenberg, Connie Thulin, Mary Tenopir, Dan Hoss, Jordan Kavan, Jennifer Whitney, Steven Sladky, Sister Janelle, and John Kreikemeier.

Absent: Rachelle Benkusky

Students: Caitlin McGuigan and Trent Moudry—McGuigan and Moudry gave a report on how the House Teams were going. Shared they are the school captains. AS captains, McGuigan and Moudry were given the opportunity to interact with Mrs. Bolden's assisted living homes. Shared the House Teams provide bonding opportunities for the 7th – 12th grades; along with teachers. Shared they try and do one be thing each year. Last quarter was the collection of coins in which they raised \$5,000—went to the Brun's house which helps with homeless. This quarter is the clothing drive until December 7th. Stated students get to participate in mass each week. All look forward to the Cav Cup which is based on a point system. Sassaman asked how board can help—Moudry shared the teams need supplies. Hoss shared wrestling parents can help through concession stand profit but needs workers to help.

Review of Minutes from 9/20/23 Meeting: Kavan made a motion to accept the minutes, Hoss 2nd the motion; all approved; Sladky abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. New members—Sassaman welcomed new members and reminded of purpose of the board

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Recognizing teachers and school administrators—Sister Janelle share this was mentioned at the administration meeting. Discussed there are opportunities throughout the year to recognize teachers and administrators—day before Christmas break; last week of school which his teacher appreciation week and during Catholic Schools week. Discussed at meeting asking each grade to take a turn starting with Senior class so they do not have to do this so close to graduation. Total of 50-60 staff members.
2. Dennis Uniform Co.—Sr. Janelle shared she talked to Tina at Dennis Uniform Co. and they are coming up with a sizing chart to assist for skirts. Sassaman shared Benkusky shared she did finally received her uniform skirts and offered to refund her money for the delay. Sr. Janelle

shared Dennis Uniform Co. has been in existence for a long time and does have an easy return policy. She also shared she looked into Lands' End and Tommy Hilfiger.

3. Senior parent surveys—Sister Janelle reported that there was only 10 parent surveys which is such little data to be effective. Agreed to look at the process for next year and make this more effective—give out in April instead of May which is a busy month. Hoss shared he would be willing to help design the survey and collect and compile the data.
4. Community cleanup day—Tenopir gave update of how Cedar Bluffs did this in the past—Road Runner donated the roll offs and it was paid through Keno funds. For 3 dumpsters, it cost \$1,200; which some was paid back through recyclables. Sassaman shared she attended a community meeting-- ACT and they may have grant funds to help with this process. Kavan shared to go through ACT as there are funds to help; general consensus of board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Improvement of communication on larger school issues—Board members shared concerns that communication seems to be getting to parents days and weeks later after major occurrences at school. Some board members gave specific examples. Mr. Kreikemeier stated that it's hard at times to beat social media. Shared staff tries their best to be transparent but need to take into account confidentiality. Staff shared this is an area they know they need to make improvement in. Board members suggested giving some immediate general information and then share that more details will follow at a later date.

Also discussed the importance of administrators and athletic director to be a part of teacher and coaches' accountability.

2. Consistent Discipline—Shared the School handbook explains discipline procedures; however shared the 1-5 demerits is subjective according to each teacher. If there are multiple detentions, then administration steps in. Kreikemeier shared it's always important for administrators to hear both sides of the story.
3. Junior High Sports—communication and safety (AED's)—Board members shared concerns of kids getting hurt at Junior High Sports and no adults there to help out. Tenopir discussed concerns that there are no AED's nor med kits at junior high sports games. Kavan confirmed that all coaches are trained on how to use AED's. Discussed how this may be a Booster Club question to purchase some AED's. There may be grants to purchase these. Thulin shared SMC can provide med kits for junior high sports. Also discussed the lack of help to Junior high coaches in which they are to coach and also try to manage the athletes—discussed a form for kids and parent to sign related to expectations for junior high sports.
4. Shorts and skirts—uniforms both for school and athletics—had discussion of how shorts and skirts are getting too short and revealing. Other schools fans are making comments. School is considering allowing girls to wear leggings under their skirts/shorts.

Adjourned meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Adjourn: Next meeting date/time: January 17th 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m.