

# Bishop Neumann School Advisory Board

## Minutes

January 17, 2024

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	Father Mills—Assistant Chief Admin Officer
Steven Sladky	Wahoo	
Dan Hoss	Wahoo	
Jennifer Whitney	Mead	
Jordon Kavan	Weston Touhy	

Call Meeting to Order: President—Sassaman called meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Absent: Connie Thulin

Review of Minutes from 11/15/23 Meeting: Kavan made a motion to accept the minutes, Whitney 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all approved.

**Feedback and questions for student representatives**—Discussed the need for students at Advisory Board Meeting—Board member suggested to have them attend for 10 minutes and give student perspective and be able to ask any questions. Suggested to only attend if needed. Board agreed with this. Staff will inform them of meetings and see if there are agenda items they would want to include or address.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Recognizing teachers and school administrators—THANK YOU!—Sassaman share a big thank you to all the board members who helped with the luncheon right before Christmas. She shared she received a thank you signed by staff on behalf of our Advisory Board.
2. Junior High Sports—communication and safety (AED's)—A board member reported Beef Football and Booster club are purchasing AEDs; next fall all teachers are getting trained on CPR and First Aid; One will be stored in shed for football, track and cross county; 3 year battery; there is one in the training room. Administrators plan on educating all staff and students where AED's are located. Also looking at a dunk tank for practice field. President shared one board member reported she was able to get first aid bags to school nurse at Neumann and for Jr. High coaches.
3. Update on Dennis Uniform Co-- Mr. Weiss contacted Sr. Janelle over Christmas break regarding uniforms. He talked to Tommy Hilfiger rep. to see if this would be an option; he would like Tommy as an option; this would offer skorts. Mr. Weiss would like the pleat option all the way around; this may be another option; may also look at Lands End as another option. Discussed need to possibly have a second option. Also discussed the red sweatshirt students can wear from Rivalry; concern that it is not on website. Staff will talk to Rivalry about this.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Survey—One of our board members have been working with staff on a survey; survey to understand more about the community system; a year with students being a part of it and from the administration. What's working and not working? Different pathways; student vs. administration, vs. leaders; members shared they liked it; can customize. Can tell a lot of good information. This is a good pilot. Hoping this works to move further with other surveys; to get data from parents and families. Will share data with parents so they can be more open about taking a survey; QR code to use and each house will take it at time; completely anonymous. Plan on starting this in the next couple of weeks. Easy to download and take; Great feedback for admin. Great work!! Results will be put on the website; help with retention of students. We are hopeful that kids are growing in their faith due to Community Houses.

Each year do something similar to see results. Look at constructive criticism. Discussed the importance of keeping it short and convenient—can do it on the phone or computer.

Faculty Formation—building relationships among faculty; what does faculty need? What they did last year, was it helpful? Do we need more? Give any feedback to Board members.

2. Bathroom use during basketball games—A board member shared how the cheerleaders and dancers are using the bathroom during basketball games; and it clogs up the bathroom; they use the bathrooms to change in. Is there another room they can change in? Also worried about cheerleaders things getting stolen. Discussed using the band room or the locker room.

Question—should there be sideline cheerleaders at home and close (towns) basketball/football games? Yes; this was addressed; they should be there and cheerleading.

Board member shared she has to get parent volunteers to drive the cheerleaders and sometimes this is a problem. Shared some parents have taken the driving test so they can drive the van—can they take it? Asked if this could be an option—for cheer parents to be trained to drive the van. Staff shared “yes” they can be trained and anyone trained can take the van. Discussed how this information has not been communicated to cheer parents—board member will share this information.

3. Use of weight room—Board member shared she has been hearing how a lot of Neumann students are lifting at the Civic Center and parents want to know why we are not opening our new weight room for Neumann kids to lift there. Staff shared right now it is open 2 mornings, 2 afternoons, and other specific sport related times. Staff will address more options with coaches; will discuss about a possible schedule to post.
4. Snow Days--Staff shared the school does have some left; may alter the days on Wednesdays—earlier start if school runs out of snow days.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Adjourn: **Next meeting date/time: April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m.**