

Bishop Neumann School Advisory Board

Minutes

July 24th, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Members:

Rachelle Benkusky	Valparaiso
Karla Lechtenberg	Davey
Connie Thulin	Prague and Plasi
Mary Tenopir	Colon and Cedar Bluffs
Dan Hoss	Wahoo
Jennifer Whitney	Mead
Jordon Kavan	Weston Touhy

Students: no students attended

Call Meeting to Order: President; call to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Karla Lechtenberg, Mary Tenopir, Dan Hoss, Jennifer Whitney, Jordon Kavan, Tammy Sassaman, Rachelle Benkusky, Sr. Janelle, Father Mills, and Principal-Bridget Doyle

Absent: Steve Sladky and Connie Thulin

Review of Minutes from 4/17/24 Meeting: Motion to approve minutes was made by Whitney and Hoss 2nd, all approved. Hoss shared that Steve Sladky's position has been replaced on Parish Council but could not recall who it is. Will look into it.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Recognizing teachers and school administrators—luncheon dates were established. Lechtenberg agreed to take lead on this.

Luncheon Dates:

August 19th

December 20th

March 4th

May 5th

1. Communication—everything is on the calendar on the BN website; RSchool; Doyle shared we will be intentional at the parent preview night will provide some education about the website/calendars.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Introductions—new administrator; Board welcomed new principal, Bridget Doyle. Each member introduced themselves and Doyle shared a little about herself as well.
2. FaceBook PTO- Sr. Janelle shared a FaceBook PTO page was created sharing how to show appreciation for staff and administration. Board had discussion around the

concerns of buying gifts, amounts given, and the value of things—related to favoritism in the classroom or at sports/extracurricular activities. The FaceBook page has good intentions but we need to be careful about favoritism. Discussed keeping the donation anonymous or only giving cash/gift cards to be distributed to all teachers. Shared how Advisory Board may get confused with PTO. Sr. Janelle clarified the PTO is focused on teacher and administrator appreciation and Advisory Board is to help school year be successful.

3. Helping Families Heal—lots of board discussion.

Fr Mills--Develop partnership—safety; help asking the right questions, give tools to kids to talk; open communication; Sr. Janelle--How to help people rejoice in the growth; not ostracize. Discussed new policies being put into place to help students feel safe and secure yet have fun activities. Doyle shared there is new administration so there will be changes.

Whitney—Shared the seniors have great leadership and will provide the support for students and set the culture. Lechtenberg—is there any seminars or educational opportunities of safety—if you hear of something and okay to go to someone. Some kids don't know who to go to; who is that safe person. Fr. Mills--We are going to say the things that need to be said and there is a culture of not snitching on your friends that we battle.

Doyle--School is working on safety as well; resources; hotlines; Sassaman will share those resources; Lechtenberg—shared even having knowledge about hospital triage; Benkusky—is there resources we can send to the parents about what kids are getting exposed to. Helping parents not be afraid to check kids' phones/technology and not to be afraid to reach out.'

Sr. Janelle shared she talked to Dr. Bob Schutte and gave ideas to providers/administrators. Tenopir--What are we doing to help the community heal? She shared there is an open door policy. This will take time. Sr. shared said we need to be available and mindful. Want to watch behavioral changes. Sassaman shared us, as a school community, need to learn and heal from past year.

4. Future Dates of Advisory Board Meetings:

Next meetings: Sept. 18
January 22nd
April 16th
June 18th

Added to agenda:

Tenopir—Cornhusker state games and other schools offer free feminine products; machines are expensive; both elementary and high school; we as a school should provide this as free of charge. Aunt Flo: Magnetic boxes for each stall. Will add agenda for next meeting.

Kavan shared his appreciation of having 3 administrators being present at this meeting.

Added to agenda: Benkusky--School supply list needs to be updated

Adjourned: at 7:33--Kavan made a motion to end the meeting; Hoss—2nd; all agreed

Adjourn: **Next meeting date/time: Sept. 18th, 6:00 pm – 7:30 p.m.**