

**Kuemper Catholic School System  
Board of Education Minutes  
February 16, 2021**

The February meeting of the Kuemper Catholic School Board was called to order by Chairman, Tom Brincks, on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library. The meeting was opened with the school board prayer. Members present included Tom Brincks, Dr. John Evans, Bob Lally, Carrie Meyers, Fr. Kevin Richter, Fr. Randy Schon, Mike Sibbel and Gary Wiskus. Absent was Fr. Tim Friedrichsen.

Also present were President, John Steffes; administrators Pete Haefs, Ted Garringer and Kathi Milligan; business managers, Kris Collison and Christie Sundrup.

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Fr. Kevin Richter and seconded by Gary Wiskus. The motion passed.

**Bright Knight Moments**

Board members shared various positive activities happening throughout Kuemper.

**Administrator and Staff Reports:**

Administrative Reports – Written reports were submitted by Pete Haefs, Ted Garringer, Kathi Milligan and Mike Power.

Marketing & Enrollment Management

In Susie Hulst's written report she stated that the enrollment as of 2-5-21 is 1,134 students. Susie, Heather Pietig, Ted Garringer and John Steffes met with the admins at CCSD about preschool registration. At this time we have 71 students who have indicated they want Kuemper as their site for preschool for next year. The goal is 90 or more students. A "socially distant" Discover Kuemper Preschool Night is Wednesday, March 10. Annual reports have been printed.

Alumni/Annual Giving

Cindy Lawler stated in her written report that the final amount of money in the bank is \$210,536.92 for the 2020 Phon-a-thon. The Kuemper Ball Chair-couples held a raffle for the school kids which raised over \$10,000. They are planning an event on March 27, 2021 featuring the Patrick Lentz Band from Kansas City. The Spring KnightLetter, alumni newsletter will be sent the first part of March.

Development/Fundraising – Foundation

Sharon Olerich's written report stated that the End-of-Year Appeal collected \$74,655 for the Teacher Salary Enhancement Fund and \$10,509 for the Fr. Kuemper Society Student Tuition Assistance Fund. \$7,769 has been raised for the *Sponsor-A-Student* Tuition Assistance Fund.

Finance & Budget

Kris Collison reviewed the general fund income and expenses for January 2021 and the 2020-2021 Working Fiscal Year Budget. The Finance & Budget Committee is scheduled to meet March 4th to set 2021-2022 tuition and recommend a preliminary 2021-2022 General Fund budget for approval at the March school board meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

A. Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Catholic Identity – January 21

Father Behm will continue his conversation with Dr. Boyle and his involvement with Kuemper Catholic School. The Survey Subcommittee will continue developing the survey with a goal of presenting the survey at the next meeting. Mr. Haefs will contact Sister Ann Thomas and discuss the joint project, Virtues in Practice, and its continuing development. Carrie Meyers will contact her friend who is working with a new program at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Ames. AdminTeam will research sources for financial support of possible visits by Dr. Boye and Sr. John Thomas, and for supporting Theology of the Body coursework costs for staff. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 4th at 4:00 p.m.

2. Buildings & Grounds – January 28

John Steffes updated that the St. Angela bathroom renovations could start in May.

John Steffes reported on a possible timeline for capital campaign pending approval by Kuemper Foundation. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 30th at 5:30 p.m.

3. Academic Excellence - February 16

John Evans reported that PK-8 Math scores are pretty positive and Reading was a little more challenging from the STAR (Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading and ISASP (Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress) Data. At the high school, Math again was stronger, reading was very problematic.

**Old Business:**

A. KCSS Policy 3400.c

Fr. Randy Schon moved to waive the 2nd Reading and approve the 3rd of the recommended KCSS 3400.c Policy, seconded by Gary Wiskus.

The motion passed.

B. Virtual Town Hall – February 25 at 6:30 p.m. There will be 2 breakout sessions with 4 different topics of discussion.

C. Diocesan Long Range Plan Update Meeting – Tuesday, March 16

This will be held following the March board meeting. Diocesan Superintendent, Patty Lansink will lead the meeting. Committee members will be invited.

**New Business:**

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar

Gary Wiskus moved to approve the recommended 2021-2022 School Calendar, seconded by Mike Sibbel. The motion passed.

The Board agreed with the advice of the school administration and recommended that if there are any more snow days in 2020-2021, to add them to the end of the school year for face to face learning rather than having virtual learning.

**Personnel**

A. Resignations

1. Lindsay Rohe - Food Service

2. Katherine Tillinghast - Campus Ministry

B. Retirement

1. Deacon Tim Murphy - Theology

2. Jean Guy - High School English

3. Diane Boes - Grade 2

C. New Hires

1. Therese Sibbel - Food Service
2. Nicci Gruszczyka - Teacher Associate, part time

Gary Wiskus moved to go into Executive Session at 5:04 p.m. seconded by John Evans.

Fr. Kevin Richter moved to go out of Executive Session and back into regular session at 5:15 p.m., seconded by John Evans. The motion passed.

Fr. Randy Schon led the closing prayer.

Mike Sibbel moved to adjourn at 5:16 p.m., seconded by Gary Wiskus.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 16 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library, followed by the Diocesan Long Range Plan Update meeting..

Respectfully submitted,

John Steffes  
President

Joanie Buelt  
Recording Secretary