

Kuemper Catholic School System
Board of Education Minutes
January 19, 2021

The January meeting of the Kuemper Catholic School Board was called to order by Chairman, Tom Brincks, on Tuesday, January 19, 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, Fr. Tim Friedrichsen, Bob Lally, Carrie Meyers, Fr. Kevin Richter, Fr. Randy Schon, Mike Sibbel and Gary Wiskus.

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

Students in Vocational Agriculture/FFA, Ethan Pietig and Blake Obrecht provided a brief overview of recent FFA activities including the management of the Kuemper owned plot.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 15th meeting was made by Fr. Tim Friedrichsen and seconded by Gary Wiskus. The motion passed.

Bright Knight Moments

Board members shared various positive activities happening throughout Kuemper especially the good work being done by all staff during this difficult pandemic.

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 1-8-21 is 1,134 students. We've gained 5 new students since last month's report; however, we lost 4 students as well. Three the five were from families that moved to the area. Susie and Heather Pietig are preparing for Catholic Schools Week. Annual reports will be published in time for CSW. They are also creating a closed facebook group for parents of preschoolers for the 21-22 school year.

Development/Fundraising – Foundation

Sharon Olerich's written report stated that the Msgr. Lafferty appeal raised \$540,361 in 2020 towards its goal of \$751,371. The next regular Foundation meeting will be Thursday, February 11 at 4:00 p.m. A large appeal was mailed in November to target end-of-year giving. Donors could designate either the Teacher Salary Enhancement Fund (TSEF) or the Father Kuemper Society (FKS).

Finance & Budget

Christie Sundrup reviewed the general fund income and expenses for December 2020 and the 2020-2021 Working Fiscal Year Budget.

Committee Reports:

A. Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Teacher Recruitment/Retention Subcommittee – January 11

John Steffes shared there is a good possibility the Foundation will approve a summer feasibility study for a capital campaign this fall. Kris Collison will check on the possible new round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 at noon.

Old Business:

A. Return to Learn Update

The administrators gave various updates on how school days are going during the current pandemic. This week's absence numbers were around 5 positive COVID cases (students and staff), 17 in quarantine, and 20 absent (all absences including from COVID). That compares to the spike in mid-November of 22 positive COVID cases, 116 in quarantine, and 48 absent. Ted, John and Dr. Evans are part of a regional COVID Task Force that meets virtually every other week of school administrators, health professionals and business leaders to keep communication lines open among community groups during the pandemic.

New Business:

A. *KuemperCares* Rates

John Evans moved to approve the proposed 2021-2022 *KuemperCares* rates recommended by the *KuemperCares* Committee. Fr. Kevin Richter seconded. The motion passed.

B. KCSS Policy 3400.c

Gary Wiskus moved to approve the 1st Reading of the recommended KCSS 3400.c Policy, seconded by Mike Sibbel.

The motion passed.

C. Cash Rent Farm Lease with Carroll FFA

Mike Sibbel moved to approve the amended proposed lease with Carroll Area FFA for 12 acres of farm ground adjacent to the field house property for \$250 per acre. Bob Lally seconded. The motion passed.

D. Virtual Town Hall – tentatively February 25

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

A Catholic Schools Week schedule of activities beginning January 31 was distributed. John reported that a modified Then Feed Just One food packing event for students will take place over two days to allow for more spacing because of the pandemic - tentatively March 30 & 31.

Gary Wiskus moved to go into Executive Session at 4:56 p.m. seconded by John Evans.

Fr. Tim Friedrichsen moved to go out of Executive Session and back into regular session at 4:59 p.m., seconded by John Evans. The motion passed.

Fr. Kevin Richter led the closing prayer.

Gary Wiskus moved to adjourn at 5:02 p.m., seconded by Fr. Randy Schon.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Respectfully submitted,

John Steffes
President

Joanie Buelt
Recording Secretary