

Kuemper Catholic School System
Board of Education Minutes
November 17, 2020

The November meeting of the Kuemper Catholic School Board was called to order by Chairman, Tom Brincks, on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 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, Fr. Kevin Richter, Fr. Randy Schon, Mike Sibbel and Gary Wiskus. Absent were Fr. Tim Friedrichsen and Carrie Meyers.

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 October 20th meeting was made by Gary Wiskus and seconded by Bob Lally. 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 11-9-20 is 1,133 students. We've gained two new students since last month's report – one in PS and one in 6th grade. A new student is set to start November 12th. Susie completed the 2020-2021 Enrollment Management Plan. Heather Pietig and Susie have been working on virtual tour videos of Holy Spirit and St. Lawrence centers. This will be debuted on social media the week of Thanksgiving. Heather recorded a message from John Steffes about parish support. The purpose of this video is to make parents and parishioners aware of the financial support that comes from our parishes. Susie is working on a new family testimonial campaign that will be published soon.

Alumni/Annual Giving

Cindy Lawler stated in her written report that as of 11-6-20 they have raised \$158,580 in cash and pledges for the Phonathon. Over \$14,000 has been donated by constituents who did not give to the phonathon in 2019. Online giving went up 20% from last year. The Kuemper Ball Chair-couples are planning for various scenarios for the 2021 Ball. They are tentatively planning a concert (no dancing) for March 20, 2021. The Alumni Directory has been sent to alumni who purchased them.

Development/Fundraising – Foundation

Sharon Olerich's written report stated Kuemper's goal for the Msgr. Lafferty Tuition Foundation for 2020 is \$751,371. As of October 31, \$331,972 has been collected. Over \$3,669 has been raised for the Sponsor-A-Student at this time. A special mailing for end-of-year giving was mailed Nov. 1. Donors have the option of choosing the Teacher Salary Enhancement Fund or the Fr. Kuemper Society Tuition Fund. All *Eternal Knights* were invited to the fall play "Done to Death". The next Teacher Recruitment/Retention Committee will be Monday, January 11 at noon. A "Halloween treat" \$25 Scrip Certificate was shared with all employees as a thank you for their commitment to our students from the Foundation.

Finance & Budget

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

Committee Reports:

- A. Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Buildings & Grounds – November 5

The committee recommended Bid #2 for the St. Angela bathroom improvements to the Board. Gary Wiskus moved to approve Bid #2 for the St. Angela bathroom improvements, seconded by Mike Sibbel. The motion passed. KHS parking lot line painting is finished. St. Angela entrance is finished (woodwork, tin ceiling). Light fixture still needs to be installed. A list of future potential projects was reviewed.

2. Catholic Identity – November 12

Due to COVID the November Kairos has been postponed. Advent Penance service will be held. Advent Celebrations are being planned by Deacon Murphy in the high school and Mrs. Venner in conjunction with the middle school Student Council in the middle school. Mrs. Amber Hoffman, P.E. and Health teacher, is currently enrolled in a Theology of the Body online course. The committee recommends support for the ongoing collaboration with Dr. Boyle, Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, for an initial visit to Kuemper to discuss his mission and culture with the staff and continue with the survey. The next meeting will be in January.

Old Business:

A. Finance Subcommittee Update

Members of the Finance Subcommittee met on October 28th and November 4th. A teacher group presented ideas for possible budget savings. They stressed that the cutting of programs be looked at as a final solution. They relayed their concern of the effects of Ministry 2025 as it relates to Kuemper financially. Listing of teachers and student counts by levels and recent new positions were reviewed. Administrators will look closely at positions and student counts and bring proposals of new budget recommendations to the next meeting. John Steffes will work with marketing/development staff to produce a video that would be made available to the general public via social media, parish finance council meetings, and other media outlets, relaying the Parish-Kuemper partnership.

B. Return to Learn Update

Staff has been great helping out subbing and covering for each other when possible. A recent parent survey had very positive feedback. Middle school sports have been postponed until December 10th. Choral concerts will be live streamed with no audience. Spectators at activities are very limited.

New Business:

A. 2021-2022 Calendar Committee with CCSD

Mike Sibbel moved to approve the 2021-2022 Calendar Committee roster, seconded by Fr. Kevin Richter. The motion passed. KCSS Board member, Tom Brincks will be the Board representative for the 2021-2022 Calendar Committee with CCSD. Other members include John Steffes, Pete Haefs, Ted Garringer, Nathan Lueth, Pam Schwabe, Amber Hoffman, Mendy Haefs, Kathy Stipe and Elise Soyer.

Fr. Randy Schon moved to go into Executive Session at 4:37 p.m. seconded by Mike Sibbel.

Fr. Kevin Richter moved to go out of Executive Session and back into regular session at 4:40 p.m., seconded by Fr. Randy Schon. The motion passed.

Fr. Kevin Richter led the closing prayer.

Gary Wiskus moved to adjourn at 4:42 p.m., seconded by Mike Sibbel.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Respectfully submitted,

John Steffes
President

Joanie Buel
Recording Secretary