

**Kuemper Catholic School System  
Board of Education Minutes  
December 15, 2020**

The December meeting of the Kuemper Catholic School Board was called to order by Chairman, Tom Brincks, on Tuesday, December 15, 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, Fr. Tim Friedrichsen, Carrie Meyers, Fr. Kevin Richter, Fr. Randy Schon, Mike Sibbel and Gary Wiskus. Absent was Bob Lally.

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

Nick Stanley of Schnurr & Company, LLP presented the 2019-2020 audit report of KCSS and the Kuemper Foundation to the board. Fr. Tim Friedrichsen moved to approve the final 2019-2020 audit report of KCSS and the Kuemper Foundation from Schnurr & Company, LLP. Mike Sibbel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 17<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 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 12-07-20 is 1,133 students. We've gained one new kindergartner since last month's report, however one student left. Three new students will start after Christmas break. The first series of virtual tours (Holy Spirit building) were featured on Facebook and other social media. Packets of recruitment information were brought to Smithfield to attract Latinos to Kuemper. Heather has been working on organizing a "12 days of Giveaways" for the staff in lieu of the all-staff Christmas party. Planning will begin for Catholic Schools Week at the end of January and for the Discover Kuemper Preschool and Kindergarten nights that usually occur in February.

Alumni/Annual Giving

Cindy Lawler stated in her written report that as of 12-4-20 they have raised \$196,643 in cash and pledges for the Phon-a-thon. The Kuemper Ball Chair-couples are working on a video of students saying why they're thankful for Kuemper.

Development/Fundraising – Foundation

Sharon Olerich's written report stated that as of the quarterly report ending September 30, 2020 the Kuemper Foundation Total is \$6,261,193.94. The Msgr. Lafferty appeal has raised \$409,091 so far towards its goal of \$751,371. The next regular Foundation meeting will be Thursday, February 11 at 4:00 p.m. The Foundation will distribute \$300 Advent Gifts to all teachers and \$210 Advent Gifts to all non-certified employees before Christmas break. The winter issue of the Knight Light was mailed after Thanksgiving to all St. Angela Academy graduates and those supporting Kuemper.

Finance & Budget

Kris Collison reviewed the general fund income and expenses for November 2020 and the 2020-2021 Working Fiscal Year Budget.

**Committee Reports:**

A. Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Finance & Budget – December 1

A Mission Impact spreadsheet compiled from a list of budget considerations was brought to the committee. Administration reviewed the items and grouped them according to impact on the Kuemper system; Minimal,

Moderate and Major Mission Impact. The sub-committee proposed that the Minimal Mission Impact items be considered for the 2021-2022 budgeting process. These items total an estimated \$360,700. Fr. Kevin Richter moved to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation of at least the Minimal Mission Impact items to guide the preparation of the 2021-2022 general fund budget. Mike Sibbel seconded. The motion passed. The Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven in early November. The Board of Education already approved crediting corporate parishes 43.19% of the \$1,216,900 loan, or \$525,579.

2. Marketing & Enrollment Management – December 8

The committee gave suggestions on how to possibly attract more Latino families. Susie and Heather will look into virtual options for Discover Kuemper Preschool Night and Kindergarten Night. The next meeting is Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Leadership & Governance – December 9

The committee recommended for board approval the proposed revisions to the local 5000 series of the Diocesan Policy Manual. Gary Wiskus moved to waive the 1st and 2nd reading of the KCSS 5000 Series Policies, seconded by Mike Sibbel. The motion passed. Gary Wiskus moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading of the KCSS 5000 Series Policy revisions, seconded by Fr. Tim Friedrichsen. The motion passed. The Board reviewed the updated Diocesan 5000 Series Policies.

The committee recommended the school board not pursue creating a policy that would enact a tuition surcharge on families that are members of delinquent parishes, in which the Board agreed.

The committee reviewed the 2020 Town Hall meeting feedback and discussed ideas for 2021, which will most likely be virtual.

The committee was asked to begin thinking of possible revisions to the Board membership rotation schedule following likely parish grouping changes from Ministry 2025. The committee recommended minor revisions to the Board handbook for the board to approve. Gary Wiskus moved to approve the recommended Board Handbook revisions, seconded by Fr. Randy Schon. The motion passed. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021

**Old Business:**

A. Return to Learn Update

The administrators gave various updates on how school days are going during the current pandemic. Efforts to address worker morale is ongoing. This week's absence numbers were around 4 positive COVID cases (students and staff), 20 in quarantine, and 22 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.

Gary Wiskus moved to go into Executive Session at 5:13 p.m. seconded by Fr. Tim Friedrichsen.

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

Fr. Tim Friedrichsen led the closing prayer.

Gary Wiskus moved to adjourn at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Mike Sibbel.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Respectfully submitted,

John Steffes  
President

Joanie Buel  
Recording Secretary