

**RAPID CITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
BOARD MINUTES  
Monday, February 27, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
Holy Family Meeting Room  
Catholic Chancery Building**

ATTENDING: Rev. Brian Christensen, Christopher Dietrich, Suzanne Feist, Jess Karim, Jennifer Keszler, Brendan Murphy, Tara Schaack, Cassidy Stalley, Corrie Stephens, Joe Strain

ABSENT: Bishop Peter Muhich, Bruce Rook, Rev. Andrzej Wyrostek

INTERESTED PARTIES: Robert Aberle, Rebecca Cronin, Jim Johnston, Craig Nowotny, Mary Helen Olsen, Wayne Sullivan, Julie Tipton (via Zoom)

GUESTS: Stacey Nelson, Matt Remmich, Mike Solano

RECORDER: Marcia Werner

**0.1 Opening prayer** was led by Fr. Christensen.

**0.2 Introductions** were made for the benefit of incoming superintendent, Dr. Julie Tipton.

**MINUTES-APPROVAL**

**1.1 Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2023 Meeting** as presented and filed with the recorder.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

**2.1** Prayer Meditation, reflection, and discussion on “*Ten Universal Principles*,” “Principle 7 – The Principle of Natural Rights,” pgs. 51-74, was led by Robert Aberle.

**REPORTS**

**3.1 Living the Mission Appeal Update** was deferred.

**3.2 Booster Club Report** was deferred.

**3.3 Chairman's Report** by Corrie Stephens, who encouraged members to be visible at RCCSS activities in support of the school community.

**3.4 Administrative Report** was included in the Board packet.

**3.4.1** Campus Ministry Report was included in the Board packet.

**3.4.2** Superintendent Robert Aberle provided an update on snow days; for which, no makeup days are necessary due to an overabundance of instructional hours. NCSW events went well; the Cognia accreditation on-site visit is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2024; a draft of the 2023-24 school calendar is being finalized; STM High School has three National Merit finalists – Druhv Goyal, Allison Hill, and Tom Solano; Seminarian Robert Kinyon is scheduled to speak to staff at the All-Staff Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; and, SES reported a gas leak recently, which was successfully resolved without any interruption to the school day.

**3.4.3** Elementary Principal’s report was deferred.

**3.4.4** Middle School Principal Mary Helen Olsen highlighted items on the Administrative report. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had very positive feedback following their recent retreat stating their favorite activities during retreat were Adoration and Confession.

“*Theology of the Body*,” teaching is beginning. “Packing Hope” has begun to augment Lenten practices.

- 3.4.5** High School Principal Jim Johnston further reported on a Fish Fry to be held at STM High School during the upcoming boys’ basketball game on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Four high school students participated in the recent State wrestling championship, with Victoria Verhey, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, placing 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion has begun on ways to navigate the ChatGPT AI service as it relates to student cheating. Matt Remmich, STM High School teacher, spoke regarding his recent trip to North Dakota to observe their “Faith Trivia” contest held every year. The goal is to implement this same activity in SD; therefore, plans are underway to contact other interested SD schools.
- 3.5 Committee Reports**
- 3.5.1 Finance Committee** report was included in the Board packet. A tuition waiver decision was deferred to Executive Session.
- 3.5.2 Facilities Committee** report was deferred.
- 3.5.3 Development Committee & Development Office** reports were included in the Board packet. Wayne Sullivan further reported that over 1800 letters were just sent for the Annual Appeal. A Zoom meeting was held recently with the company responsible for “The Cavalier” magazine. He attended a “GrantConnect” meeting at BH Corporation regarding grant monies’ and will follow up with this resource.
- 3.5.4 Mission Committee** report was included in the Board packet.
- 3.5.5 Investment Committee** report by Mike Solano. Funds have been moved as presented and approved at the January 2023 Board meeting.
- 3.5.6 Activities Committee** will meet March 1, 2023.
- 3.5.7 Ad Hoc Committee** report was included in the Board packet, which included a results summary from the “Better Together” forums that were held in May of 2022. This summary, and subsequent communications regarding the results, will be presented to the RCCSS community via the *Weekly Wednesday* publications.
- 3.5.8 Executive Committee** met to review agenda items.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 4.1** None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1** Motion by Fr. Christensen, “Approve **Suzanne Feist** as **RCCSS Board Treasurer.**” Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 6.1** The Board went into Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. and came out of Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Motion by Tara Schaack, “Approve the tuition waiver for the recently withdrawn 7<sup>th</sup> grade student as recommended by the Finance Committee.” Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 7.1** The **next meeting** will be held March 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., Holy Family Meeting Room – Catholic Chancery building.
- 7.2 Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Werner