

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

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

ABSENT: Rev. Brian Christensen, Bishop Peter Muhich

INTERESTED PARTIES: Robert Aberle, Rebecca Cronin, Jim Johnston, Colleen Lecy, Mary Helen Olsen, Craig Nowotny, Mike Solano

GUESTS: See Attached List

RECORDER: Marcia Werner

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

**MINUTES-APPROVAL**

**1.1 Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2023 Meeting** as presented and filed with the recorder.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

**2.1** Prayer Meditation, reflection, and discussion on “*Ten Universal Principles,*” “Principle 8 – The Principle of the Fundamentality of Rights,” pgs. 74-80, 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. Work continues on finalizing the 2023-24 budget and school calendar. Concerns regarding snow days and a recent water main break at St. Elizabeth Seton as it relates to hourly employees is being taken under consideration. Chairman Stephens will step down as President next year and two new Board members are needed to fill vacancies.

**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 recently attended a luncheon at LOVE, Inc. and attended Pastoral Ministry Days. He is currently visiting classes and speaking on suicide prevention. He met with Michael Pauley, Executive Director of SD Catholic Conference; at which, School Choice was a topic of discussion.

**3.4.3** Elementary Principal Colleen Lecy briefly reviewed her report. Destination Imagination teams had their presentations on Sunday due to the Regional event cancellation. She updated the Board on a change in testing for Grades 3, 4, and 5 this year.

**3.4.4** Middle School Principal Mary Helen Olsen corrected an item in her report regarding attendance at the ACDA Conference in Cincinnati; Angela Weber attended, not

Angela Wagner. Science curriculum has been the main focus recently, with the middle school attending the Science Fair at SDSM&T last week.

**3.4.5** High School Principal Jim Johnston further reported that the Freshman Retreat was held at OLPH versus Terra Sancta due to the water main break. The recent Blood Drive hosted by Student Council was successful. Twelve students were inducted into National Honor Society following Mass last week.

### **3.5 Committee Reports**

**3.5.1 Finance Committee** report was included in the Board packet, which included a proposed budget for 2023-24. Approval of said budget was deferred to New Business.

**3.5.2 Facilities Committee** report was included in the Board packet. Brendan Murphy is the new Committee Chairman. The Committee will hold a meeting this week and work will begin on updating the Master Facilities' Plan.

**3.5.3 Development Committee & Development Office** reports were included in the Board packet.

**3.5.4 Mission Committee** report was included in the Board packet.

**3.5.5 Investment Committee** report was deferred.

**3.5.6 Activities Committee** report was included in the Board packet. Chris Dietrich reviewed the report in detail. The Committee is recommending the inclusion of an ID card in addition to the Spirit Shirt to allow easier access to school functions. Additionally, they are requesting an increase of \$50 in participation fees with monies to be deposited into the General Athletic fund. These items will await Board approval.

**3.5.7 Ad Hoc Committee** report was deferred.

**3.5.8 Executive Committee** met to review agenda items.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**4.1** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Dan Cooper**, RCCSS stakeholder, coach, and alumni parent, spoke on behalf of numerous concerned school community members regarding the decision to restructure the RCCSS Development Office. He distributed a copy of his presentation and copies of letters in support of Wayne Sullivan, current Director of Alumni and Public Relations. The Board was encouraged to take this matter under advisement.

**5.2** Motion by Jennifer Keszler, "Approve the **2023-24 School Calendar** as presented." Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

**5.3** Motion by Jennifer Keszler, "Table approval of the **2023-24 Budget** due to concerns with the Annual Appeal amount and pending clarification of Development Office restructuring." Motion seconded but died due to lack of a majority. Further discussion ensued. Motion by Cassidy Stalley, "Approve the **2023-24 Budget** as presented." Motion seconded and carried with six ayes and four nays.

**5.4** Jess Karim reiterated the need for two **new board members**. Members were encouraged to share prospective names with her; preferably, candidates will be from Our Lady of the Black Hills, St. Isaac Jogues, or St. Therese parishes.

**5.5** Robert Aberle provided an **update on the open positions in the Development Office**. There are currently 4-5 applications received. Deadline for accepting applications is March 31, 2023. Sabrina Rausch is the new temporary Development Office Assistant.

**5.6** The **Board Retreat** will be held June 27, 2023, at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. More details will be forthcoming.

- 5.7 Dionne Eastmo, Suzanne Feist, Colleen Lecy, Mary Helen Olsen, and Cassidy Stalley have all volunteered to be on the **Superintendent Transition Ad Hoc Committee**.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 6.1 The Board went into Executive Session at 6:19 p.m. and came out of Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Motion by Cassidy Stalley, “Table the request for a **tuition waiver** by a withdrawn 9<sup>th</sup> grade student.” Motion seconded and carried unanimously. Motion by Cassidy Stalley, “Approve the **tuition waiver** for three withdrawn students due to a family relocation.” Motion seconded and carried unanimously. Motion by Cassidy Stalley, “Approve the **\$1000 tuition buyout** for a withdrawn 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with the monies to be applied toward the families’ tuition for the 2023-24 school year.” Motion seconded and carried unanimously. Chris Dietrich reiterated the Activities Committee’s recommendations as outlined in their report. Details will be finalized and brought back to the Board for their consideration of an approval.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 7.1 The **next meeting** will be held April 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Jerusalem meeting room.
- 7.2 **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Werner