



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2018 - DeSales Catholic High School

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by WWCS Chair, Claire Valente at 6:30 pm. Opening Prayer was led by Fr. Nicks

Board Members Present: Claire Valente, Mona Geidl, Kristal Hassler, David Byma, Annie Guest, Deacon Jim Barrow, Andrea Renholds, Jerry Anhorn, Elly Sherry and Brenda Shields

Board Members Absent: Sarah Beechinor and Kay White

Administrators Present: Fr. Matthew Nicks and John Lesko

Guests Present: Chris Grasso, Amy Graham, Melissa Thiessen, John Healy and Pina Byma

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Claire Valente asked for a motion to approve the February 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Mona Geidl motioned for approval of the February 22, 2018 minutes. Jerry Anhorn seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Financials: Kristal reported that we are operating in the black. The budget will be finalized July 1st based on actual enrollment numbers. Claire had some questions for Kristal in regards to the money in the president's fund being tied to donations received to fund hiring a president. Kristal and Amy confirmed that this was specific money set aside to be used at the president's discretion. Financial aid applications are in the process of being verified by FACTS. Award letters will be mailed the Monday following Spring Break.

President's Report: Fr. Nicks distributed his report electronically which included an update on

- Strategic Planning - Led a vision meeting with faculty. Teacher's participation and ideas were of great value
- Communication - Due to concerns with continuation of troubling misinformation being shared amongst our community, he will be meeting with various group leaders in hopes that they will influence a positive message moving forward and reinforce the positive principles already outlined in our Handbook.
- Advancement - From the first group of applicants, no one was selected to fulfill the advancement position. If there is no evident person to take on the advancement roll as we move into the next fiscal year it will be necessary to seek out a temporary alternative to cover ongoing tasks currently under the care of Chris Grasso. The diocesan offices of communication and advancement have both been contacted for additional help or ideas.
- Community and Miscellaneous - Sister Margarita, the director for religious education and sacramental prep, is nearing the end of her 3 year commitment to our parishes. The parishes will be hiring a replacement and likely partner with the WWCS to staff the position.

Claire wondered if the position would include K-8 retreats, Religious Ed in schools and if it was overly broad. Fr. Nicks stated that the position would also serve as Safe Environment Coordinator for Walla Walla. Claire asked if the lease had been signed with Willow Public School yet? Fr. Nicks commented that they are still tweaking the lease and are close to signing.

Principal Report: John Lesko updated the board on registration. We currently have 277 students registered, 5 not returning, 8 not registered and 35 new student inquires. John recognized the Nazareth Guild for their support of the teachers of the WWCS. The Nazareth Guild awarded grants to teachers for nearly \$11,000 dollars in areas of technology, continuing education and classroom supplies. John sought input from the board on the faculty's request for additional time for collaboration. The proposal is to have early release every Wednesday throughout the school year. Currently there are 20 early release days and ½ of those occur at the end of the school year, after spring break. The proposal would allow for 34 early release days, release times at Assumption would remain at 1:45 PM but DeSales would move from 1:35 to 2:00 PM. Claire asked John what the time would be used for. John replied that the 1st week

of the month would be Faith Formation, 2nd week -Accreditation, 3rd week - Strategic plan initiatives, the 4th week would be a follow up week. Kristal wondered if the staff meetings were mandatory. John stated that the meetings occur during contract time and teachers are required to attend. Coaches that are faculty are unable to attend practice if the times overlap. Claire feels that it would be helpful to have communication to parents on what happens at PLC once a month. She also commented that it opens the possibility for afterschool clubs. The board concluded that this is an administrative decision and didn't require action from the board.

Committee Reports:

Safety: John presented a newly drafted charge of the safety committee. It is a comprehensive school safety plan that addresses the safety concerns of WWCS students, faculty and facilities through a systematic planning process. Jerry Anhorn moved to approve the safety committee charge as presented. Mona Geidl seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Policy: Mona presented Policy # 8210 and Regulation #8210 - All School Election of Parent/Guardian. The committee followed the language in the by-law change. The parent ratio still applies and the President/CA must approve the candidates. Additionally, "highly confidential" was added as one of the qualities needed. Fr Nicks moved to approve Policy #8210 and Regulation #8210 as presented. Mona Geidl seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of approving.

Marketing: Melissa Thiessen provided a committee meeting update. The committee spent a majority of time focused on the Strategic plan. Preparation to launch a new website this fall has begun. Melissa continues to meet with perspective families. Claire is pleased with current registration numbers.

Strategic Planning: Claire presented the drafts for pillars 3, 4 & 5. She encouraged the board to send the committee feedback, stating that silence implies consent. Pillar 5 still needs to be reviewed by the finance committee and the language may shift a bit. Claire spoke on the visioning for the strategic plan that Fr. Nicks had recently taken to the faculty at both schools. The faculty was very receptive. The next steps will be to present to parents for feedback. Claire distributed a document that identified the vision and strategies that would be employed. They are Magnify the Lord, Be Who We Are and Be That Well, Educate for Vocation, Creatively Enrich, Embrace Growth Mentality, and Unify the Campus. Big dreams that were inspired by our predecessors. Jerry would like the board to consider contracting with an architect to create picture of what that looks like, especially as we move forward with the capital campaign. Annie Guest added that in Minot they had created a video for presentations. The goal is to have the final draft of the Strategic Plan approved in May.

Other Business: Andrea Renholds authored the Technology Committee charge. The main tasks of the committee would be create a life cycle plan, a sharing plan for teachers, research technology and software options based on the needs of teachers and administration. The committee would consist of teachers and IT staff, MEC Coordinator, parents and community members. Many of the board members were in favor of the committee and the budgetary information that would be provided by a life cycle plan. There was some concern expressed about the committee dictating curriculum. Annie Guest moved to approve the proposed Technology committee charge establishing a new board committee. Kristal Hassler seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the approving the Technology committee.

Claire asked the board for ideas in fostering a Christian community. Fr. Nicks has expressed concern over people sharing malicious rumors and negative things that have a negative and damaging effect on our schools. Kristal suggested meeting with the individuals directly. Annie added that parents of individual classes be met with. Fr. Nicks will be meeting with leadership groups to address the issue. Fr. Nicks would like the community to focus on building one another up and not tearing each other down.

Annual Fund Phone a-thon will be held on April 11 and April 19th. Claire would like 100% board participation in the Annual Fund to show the board's belief in our schools. She asked the board members to prayerfully consider a gift to the annual fund.

Good of the Order: On April 30 Katie Rieckers will be in Walla Walla to meet with board and for principal's evaluation.

15 Minute Public Comment Period: None

Closing Prayer lead by Fr. Matthew Nicks and meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Amy Graham

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM