

**Board of Education**  
**April 7, 2020**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Kelley Schiesl, Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel, Diane Rambousek, Kevin Mullen, Brian Kane, Fr. Phil Gibbs, Fr. Steve Rosonke, Dan Walsh

**Board Members Absent:** Todd Link and Scott Leibfried

**Staff Present:** Phil Bormann, Bonnie Sigwarth, Bob Noel, Mary Sulentic, Teresa Koch, Meagan Herkelman, Ron Meyers, Barb Roling, Denise Grant, Lisa Krapfl, Doug Varley, Carolyn Wiezorek

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom and began with prayer at 5:40 p.m.

**Executive Session**

At 5:44 p.m., Fr. Steve Rosonke moved and Kelley Schiesl seconded to convene to Executive Session.

At 6:37 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to conclude Executive Session.

**Certified Staff Reductions**

- **Kelley Schiesl moved to approve the recommended reduction of certified staff for 2020-2021 as presented. Fr. Phil Gibbs seconded. Brian Kane asked board members to state their votes individually with five board members voting to approve the recommendation and two board members voting against it. The motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the March 10, 2020 Board of Education meeting were included in the packet for review.

- **Fr. Steve Rosonke moved to approve the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

**Chief Administrator Report**

There has been a strong and largely positive response from families regarding efforts to virtually educate their children. Principals have been working hard to develop a virtual learning plan, which will be shared later in the meeting.

We have received three bids for the Holy Ghost roof. The bids will be shared with Fr. Steve Garner and will go to the Finance and Facilities Committees at their April meetings.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Platform for Excellence capital campaign has been put on hold until the full economic impact is realized.

Phil thanked Bonnie Sigwarth, Director of Finance, for her effort in applying for and securing a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$2.5 million.

More than 150 employees were put on a temporary layoff effective Monday, April 6 due to the current school closure. Phil thanked Mary Sulentic, HR Coordinator, for her knowledge and continued effort with this process.

A resignation letter was received from a kindergarten teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe, which will be effective immediately. The vacancy will be filled internally.

### **Resurrection Building Update**

Fr. Phil Gibbs updated the board on the current status of the Resurrection building project and capital campaign. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the building project has been put on pause for the time being. Resurrection's capital campaign committee continues to meet to brainstorm the timeline going forward.

### **Transitional Kindergarten Update**

Phil Bormann updated the board on a survey that went out to families on March 6 to gain feedback on the possibility of starting a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program at Holy Family. Out of the 61 responses received, 27 said they would want their child to be a part of a TK program, 27 said no, and seven were undecided. The survey indicated that the program would likely be held at St. Anthony and only 14 were in favor of this location. There are currently 94 other students who would qualify for the program based on their age range; however, those parents did not respond.

The board discussed the financial implications of starting such a program right now and agreed that it would be best not to take formal action at this time. Administration will continue to research this possibility with a goal to bring it back to the board for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Virtual Learning Presentations**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were initially closed through April 13. At that time, Holy Family immediately began working on a plan for virtual learning and offered supplemental optional learning opportunities for families following spring break. Principals also began work on a long-term plan at each level in case the school closure was extended. With the announcement that schools will remain closed through April 30, all schools in Iowa were given the following three options:

1. Continue to provide optional learning opportunities for students with the understanding that closed days would need to be made up at the end of the school year.
2. Transition to a required virtual learning curriculum beginning April 13 through the end of the school closure with no make-up days required.
3. Do nothing with the understanding that closed days would need to be made up at the end of the school year.

Barb Roling, St. Columbkille Elementary principal, Doug Varley, Mazzuchelli principal, and Ron Meyers, Wahlert principal, each presented their plan for virtual learning at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Virtual learning schedules, expectations and examples of activities were shared as well as what has been accomplished up until this point.

Barb Roling shared a recommendation from elementary principals to only require virtual learning for students in grades K-5 while keeping it optional for pre-K students.

Doug Varley shared that over 75 percent of Mazzuchelli students are already actively engaged in virtual learning and recommended it be required for grades 6-8.

Ron Meyers shared his recommendation to require virtual learning in grades 6-12 while giving students who achieve a 60 percent or greater the option to take a class as pass/fail.

Overall, each grade level is ready and fully equipped to offer virtual learning beginning April 13 through the foreseeable future.

### **School Calendar**

With virtual learning being required in grades K-12 beginning April 13, Phil Bormann recommended that the last day of school continue to be June 2, 2020 in order to honor the time and effort teachers, principals and families have and will put into virtual learning.

- **Kevin Mullen moved to approve that virtual learning be required for grades K-12 beginning April 13, 2020 and that the last day of school remain June 2, 2020. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

### **Teacher/Administrator Contract Language**

The Archdiocese has recommended adding a *force majeure* clause to the teacher and administrator contracts, which would, in the event of a catastrophic event that would close operations, allow Holy Family to suspend pay during the time operations are closed. The *force majeure* clause would not come into effect if virtual learning is an option, only if all operations, including virtual, were unable to proceed. Phil Bormann noted that including the clause would provide added security, however, it could be waived if ever such an event occurs.

- **Dan Walsh moved to approve adding the *force majeure* clause to the 2020-2021 teacher and administrator contract language as presented. Kevin Mullen seconded. The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.