

Board of Education Meeting
May 18, 2021
Schrup Family Board Room

Present: Kelley Schiesl, Dan Walsh, Brian Kane, Diane Rambousek, Kevin Mullen, Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel, Todd Link, Fr. Phil Gibbs, Scott Leibfried

Staff Present: Phil Bormann and Bob Noel

Guests Present:

Wahlert Catholic students - Emma Belken, Hannah Krapfl, Ella Schmidt, Kylie Schmidt
Holy Family Parents - Emily McGuire, Stephanie Ludovissy, Katie Effertz, Michelle Zeal.

Meeting began with prayer at 5:32 p.m.

Wahlert Grounded Coffee Co. Presentation

Wahlert Catholic High School students Hannah Krapfl, Emma Belken and Ella Schmidt presented their business plan for a coffee shop they wish to open at Wahlert beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

The student-run coffee shop will be called “Grounded” to represent being grounded in the faith and will be open before school, during lunch time and Eagle time to Wahlert students, faculty and staff. The coffee shop will be an extension of the Business class and a way for students to earn credit as well as provide real-life work experience. Tim Ehrmann, Business teacher, will staff the shop with business students and will oversee scheduling. The culinary arts class will provide pastries. Sara Knabel with Bob and Lou’s coffee will supply the coffee products and serve as a mentor to those students involved. All profits will be donated to Wahlert programming.

Board members shared their thoughts and questions with the students. Brian Kane suggested confirming that there is no city licensing required for this type of business. Fr. Phil Gibbs asked that students consider ways to eliminate waste and encourage customers to recycle. The students are looking into eco-friendly cups and customers will also be allowed and encouraged to bring their own cups. Dan Walsh recommended reaching out to local suppliers for equipment to compare pricing.

Mask Mandate - Parent Presentation

Holy Family parents, Emily McGuire, Stephanie Ludovissy, Katie Effertz and Michelle Zeal attended the meeting to ask the board to consider repealing the current mask mandate requiring all students to wear face masks while in school. Considering the most recent guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, which recommends that COVID-19 be approached as any other childhood illness, the group asked the board to allow parents to make a choice based on what they feel is best for their children by making mask usage optional for families for the remainder of the school year. In addition, the parents requested transparency regarding the criteria used to determine the mask policy going forward and asked that the decision regarding masks for the 2021-2022 school year be made by the June board meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 13, 2021 board meeting were included in the packet for review.

- **Dan Walsh moved to approve the April 13, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Todd Link seconded. The motion carried.**

Consent Agenda Items

Committee minutes and reports from system administrators were included in the packet for review.

- **Todd Link moved to accept the committee minutes and reports as presented. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

Chief Administrator Reports

Fr. Martin will be joining Holy Family Catholic Schools in the 2021-2022 school year and will work alongside Fr. Upah to provide spiritual guidance to PK - 12 staff, students and families.

The Religion and Mission Committee approved the Catholic Lens statement, which will be included in the 2021-2022 Policy and Procedure Handbook as well as staff handbooks. The lens will be a part of the onboarding process for new and existing teachers and staff.

The Miracle League of Dubuque would like to place a permanent sign at the entrance leading back to the park, which is located on Holy Family property. Phil asked for feedback from the board. Brian Kane recommended that there be an easement with a certificate of insurance in case of damage. Dan Walsh requested that Holy Family be listed as a donor on signage in the park.

Holy Family plans to purchase new equipment using the EANS money provided by the federal government, but is working to determine what purchases are allowable. Phil will keep the board updated.

It has been a terrific hiring season for teachers with several quality candidates applying for and accepting positions for the 2021-2022 school year.

Executive Session

At 6:10 p.m., Kevin Mullen moved and Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded to convene to executive session.

At 6:46 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to conclude executive session.

- **Scott Leibfried moved that Holy Family Catholic Schools revises its masking policy to be completely optional for students and staff for the remainder of the school year and during summer camps and aligns itself with the Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines, provided that the city of Dubuque repeals its mask ordinance. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Transition Update

The Our Lady of Guadalupe transition to the Holy Family campus continues to move forward with construction underway. The goal is to finish all work by July 6.

Resurrection Update

Fr. Phil Gibbs reported that the campaign is still short of the matching goal; however, everything has been approved to move forward with the Resurrection project. The campaign will be entering into the next phase in early June with information going out to alumni of Resurrection School.

St. Columbkille Update

Work continues to determine the scope of what is possible at St. Columbkille School. The Facilities Committee will meet on June 7 to take a tour of the site and discuss renovation options.

Candidate Recommendation

A candidate recommendation for the hiring of Callie Owens as a Religion teacher at Mazzuchelli was shared with the board.

Fr. Phil Gibbs expressed concerns regarding the hiring of Callie due to her currently being employed in the Resurrection Parish office. Fr. Gibbs felt that Callie was actively recruited, leaving the parish in a tough position. The board discussed and acknowledged Fr. Gibbs concerns.

- **Scott Leibfried moved to approve the hiring of Callie Owens as a Religion teacher at Mazzuchelli Catholic Middle School. Dan Walsh seconded. Fr. Phil Gibbs abstained. The motion carried.**

Verification of Email Votes for Teacher Candidates

- **Dan Walsh moved to verify email votes for teacher candidates. Todd Link seconded. The motion carried.**

2021-2022 Policy & Procedure Handbook

A draft of the 2021-2022 Policy & Procedure Handbook was reviewed. Major changes include the additions of the Catholic lens statement, the Portrait of a Graduate, and the admissions policy.

- **Kelley Schiesl moved to approve the 2021-2022 Policy and Procedure Handbook as presented. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

2021-2022 Early Childhood Handbook

A draft of the 2021-2022 Early Childhood Handbook was included in the packet for review.

- **Scott Leibfried moved to approve the 2021-2022 Early Childhood Handbook as presented. Diane Rambousek seconded. The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.