

Board of Education Meeting
January 19, 2023
Schrup Family Board Room

Board Members Present: Aaron Burke, Cole Cluchey, Fr. Phil Gibbs, Brian Kane, Scott Leibfried, Kevin Mullen, Isabelle Pattarozzi, Diane Rambousek, Kelley Schiesl, Dan Walsh, and Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel

Board Members Absent: Fr. Dennis Quint

Staff Present: Phil Bormann, Bob Noel, and Jim Kuhl

Students Present: Megan Hefel and Kenna Wolbers

Guests Present: Cathy Walz

Meeting began with prayer at 5:31 p.m.

J-Term Student Presentation

This year, Wahlert Catholic High School had a J-term which consisted of a two-week period of an intensive course that students were able to choose from a variety of different courses. A group of students had the opportunity to participate in a service trip to St. Louis during this two-week course. Megan Hefel and Kenna Wolbers were present at the beginning of the board meeting to share their experience with board members. This trip provided them with a different lens and gave them a more real-world understanding of the challenges others face. Mr. Kuhl was also present during their presentation and shared what an awesome experience it was for our students.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 15, 2022 Board of Education meeting were included in the packet for review.

- **Kelley Schiesl moved to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Sharon Wulfekuhle-Hefel seconded. The motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

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

- **Fr. Phil Gibbs moved to accept the committee minutes and reports as presented. Scott Leibfried seconded. The motion carried.**

Chief Administrator Report

Phil Bormann shared an update on Faculty Faith Formation. Administrators, in partnership with Ruth Carlson are planning professional development days with a focus on faith development. A handout was shared with the group reviewing what is taking place at each site.

Catholic Schools Week is the week of January 29, 2023. There is a plan to be at all parishes and thank them for their generosity and support for Catholic education in Dubuque.

Phil Bormann introduced Cathy Walz, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, who was present to work with the board after the meeting.

New family enrollment opens on January 30. Mazzuchelli hosted a 5th Grade Activity Night and Parent Meeting on January 12. Kindergarten Visit Nights are taking place at Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Columbkille on February 7 and at Resurrection on February 9. Wahlert Catholic High School's Open House and Tuition Assistance Help Night is on March 23.

February will focus on professional learning in three areas: Increasing student ownership/thinking, formative assessment ideas, and best practices during Eagle/PASS/SD time. The social studies (K-3) of the new curriculum is wrapping up and the process with the K-5 religion curriculum has begun.

St. Joseph the Worker is going smoothly, the HVAC is in all rooms and the building has been sprinkled. St. Columbkille has had multiple repairs to their boiler system and condensate lines.

Holy Family Catholic Schools is excited to announce Sara Weires as the new principal for Resurrection. Sara will be an incredible asset and a leader in faith. She will work closely with Denise Grant for a smooth transition in July.

A message from Cathy Walz was shared with the group regarding the reality of the teacher shortage and encouraging administrators to continue to focus on pay and benefits for staff. While facing teacher shortages, competitive pay as well as an outstanding Catholic school environment will be the keys to retaining and attracting talent. Principals are communicating and working with their staff members to know their plans for next year.

Education Savings Accounts

Information was included in the packet regarding Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and what Holy Family Catholic Schools has been doing in preparation for ESAs. Phil Bormann shared that the Archdiocese of Dubuque has done an excellent job in sending out videos and information for preparation.

Phil communicated the current enrollment capabilities at each site for new students. The board raised questions regarding enrollment policies, the challenges, tuition, parish subsidy, timeline, etc., if ESAs were to go through. Phil shared the enrollment policies that are currently in place and Holy Family will turn to those if there is an influx of new students. Cathy Walz helped answer questions and shared information with the board and the guidance that they are providing the schools and systems.

As more information comes available it will be shared with board members. The board will look to schedule a strategic planning meeting in February.

Notification of Reductions

In compliance with Archdiocesan policy #4111.22 regarding reduction of contracted staff, the Holy Family Board of Education requested that Holy Family administration conduct a review of staffing needs for the 2023-2024 school year. If necessary, as per policy, staff reduction recommendations must be made no later than the regular March board meeting.

- **Brian Kane moved to approve the request that Holy Family administration conduct a review of staffing needs for the 2023-2024 school year. Diane Rambousek seconded. The motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. and was followed by a training session for the board, led by Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Cathy Walz.