

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**January 18, 2024**  
**Schrup Family Board Room**

**Board Members Present:** Dan Walsh, Scott Leibfried, Amy Henn, Isabelle Pattarozzi, Fr. Phil Gibbs, Kevin Mullen, John Callahan, Mike Dodds, Diane Oglesby, Cole Cluchey and Kristy Lynch

**Board Members Absent:** Fr. Dennis Quint

**Staff Present:** Lisa Krapfl, Phil Bormann, Jim Kuhl and Beth Neuhaus

**Students Present:** Faith Gockel and Bella Eisbach

**Guests Present:** Laura Markham

The meeting began with prayer at 5:32 p.m.

**J-Term Student Presentation**

As a part of J-term this year, several Wahlert students attended a service trip to St. Louis. Students, Faith Gockel and Bella Eisbach were present at the beginning of the board meeting to share their experiences from the service trip with the board members. The service trip allowed them to see a different perspective, build upon relationships with the community there and grow closer to God. Wahlert teachers, Jim Kuhl and Beth Neuhaus were chaperones on the service trip and were present for their presentation.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from December 21, 2023 were included for review.

- **Isabelle Pattarozzi moved to approve the December 21, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Cole Cluchey seconded. The motion carried.**

**Academic Update**

Phil Bormann introduced Lisa Krapfl, the Director of Curriculum and Innovation, to share an update on academics for the system. Phil expressed that we are lucky to have Lisa as she's a big part of everything we do at Holy Family.

Lisa acknowledged that one of Wahlert's current students, Vira Hadzhiieva, had recently won a 100-word personal narrative contest with the *New York Times*.

Lisa has created four academic goals for the school year to focus on, along with the other system goals for academics. Lisa shared the following goals with the board:

- Students will agree to strongly agree (an average of 3 or higher) on statements regarding mathematics at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Measurable Results Assessment (MRA) from the Leader in Me Program target areas will score 80 or above in the areas of leadership, culture, and academics.
- Holy Family will reach or exceed the following academic metrics:

- ISASP - 100 percent reach proficiency with 35 percent in advanced.
- FAST - Student proficiency at or above 85 percent
- ACT - Student ACT Composite will be 25+
- Holy Family will continue to grow our Catholic Identity throughout our programming with our school community.

Results from ISASP, FAST, PreACT and AP tests were shared with the board. Lisa shared that ACT prep was added to J-term for sophomores this year to help prepare them for testing. Lisa expressed that although most colleges don't require the ACT, we are still trying to get as many students as possible to take it. At Wahlert, there are about 300 students now taking a college course and every core class has a college offering. The focus going forward will be moving from AP courses to college credit courses. Lisa shared what she has been working on as a four-year plan for a student to walk out of Wahlert Catholic with an Associates in Arts degree.

Lisa also shared results regarding the State of Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Report which shows the percent of high school graduates that enrolled within one year, persisted for a second year, and completed within six years. Lisa shared a comparison of Wahlert students from this report to the state of Iowa as a whole and also to Solon High School as it's also more comparable in size and demographics.

The board thanked Lisa for the tremendous work she has done with academics in the system in taking it to another level and uniting it across the system.

### **Chief Administrator Report**

Wahlert students completed and logged 4,813 service hours throughout the first semester. NET Retreats were hosted for 9th grade on January 11 and 10th grade on January 12.

Kindergarten enrollment has begun and will open to new families later in January. Applications continue to be processed and reviewed for admission within our enrollment criteria, parishes are being called to confirm membership. Waitlists for Kindergarteners are anticipated. The 5th grade activity night at Mazzuchelli was held on January 11 and the Discover Wahlert Night for prospective Wahlert students will be held Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Siebe Studio informed us that they will no longer be doing school pictures and we are looking into other options for the future.

Start and end times for St. Columbkille have been established for next year. Resurrection's south-end looks good and will be ready for students, the next step is working on getting St. Joseph the Worker ready.

A bid package for the drawings of our central campus master plan for the track and field area is being worked through to get set up.

Governor Reynolds outlined an agenda item for legislation which included teacher pay, we are keeping a close eye on it as we will need to remain competitive.

The hiring season is upon us, open teaching positions have been posted. Mr. Varley, Associate Principal and Dean of Students at Wahlert Catholic High School, has resigned for the next school year. Phil thanked Mr. Varley for his service to the Holy Family community over the years.

### **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 2024-2025 school year. If necessary, as per policy, staff reduction recommendations must be made no later than the regular March board meeting.

- **Scott Leibfried moved to approve the request that Holy Family administration conduct a review of staffing needs for the 2024-2025 school year. Diane Oglesby seconded. The motion carried.**

### **2024-2025 Tuition Rate Approval**

The Archdiocese of Dubuque provided guidance regarding the tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year. Based on the guidelines from the Archdiocese, the tuition rates for a supporting parish family includes an increase of 28.54 percent (elementary), 20.65 percent (middle school), and 8.65 percent (high school). For a non-supporting family, the tuition rates include an increase of 22.36 percent (elementary), 15.60 percent (middle school), and 5.43 percent (high school). The tuition rates for a non-Catholic family include an increase of 13.37 percent (elementary), 8.12 percent (middle school), and 0.47 percent (high school).

Dan Walsh shared that the Finance Committee discussed taking the tuition rates higher, but following the Archdiocesan guidelines, the committee recently approved these rates as presented along with the promise scholarship for those not yet eligible for an ESA.

Mike Dodds questioned the relationship with the Archdiocese as they have advised the board regarding tuition. Phil shared that historically, they have not guided us on tuition, but Cathy Walz, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, works with the other dioceses in Iowa to help navigate it in the initial years of the ESAs.

- **Mike Dodds moved to approve the 2024-2025 tuition rates as presented. Cole Cluchey seconded. The motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.