

Scotus Central Catholic Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
1/21/2021

Chris Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Present: Fr. Ross Burkhalter, Fr. Joe Miksch, Fr. Mike Swanton, Tim Beaver, Mike Dreesen, Chris Hutchinson, Lisa Kaslon, Shannon Kosch, Jay Pelan, and Kathy Steiner. Absent were: Dr. Scott Cameron, Clint Przymus. Also present: Jason Mielak, board member emeritus. Administrators present: Jeff Ohnoutka, President; Merlin Lahm, Activities Director/Asst. Principal; and John Schueth, Development Director. Administrators absent: Angie Rusher, Asst. Principal.

The meeting opened with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Dreesen moved and Tim Beaver seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “serving alcohol at the alumni basketball post-tourney dinner and the Gala.” The motion carried. The October 22, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as read. Fr. Joe moved and Mike Dreesen seconded a motion to excuse absent board members and the motion carried.

HANDOUTS – none.

VISITOR RECOGNITION/CORRESPONDENCE/INTRODUCTIONS – Amy Sokol, representing St. Anthony Parish; Bree Ackermann and Betsy Rall, representing STO.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (in addition to submitted printed reports in board packets)

Mr. Lahm reported that the first semester ended successfully and commended the Scotus faculty for the extra work they performed by offering both in-person and remote learning at the same time. Student absenteeism peaked in November when about 75 students were learning from home. Most of these students did not test positive for the virus but were quarantined due to a family member with COVID. Recently, NSAA relaxed maximum activity attendance levels to 50% of seating capacity. So far the largest crowd in the Dowd Activity Center has been 354 and the gym’s 50% capacity is 600. Attendance at events varies widely depending on the activity and host school: all conference speech meets do not allow guests, some schools allow only one parent for basketball and one conference school does not allow fans for their home basketball contests. It was also just announced that district and state speech will be conducted in-person. Mr. Schueth provided the latest SEF 16 numbers: 706 donors offering 1,168,451.90 in pledges and donations. He added that Scotus is planning to offer the Gala as an in-person event and limiting attendance to about 250. Online bidding will still be available for those not attending and the school will encourage home “watch parties” to engage our supporters not in attendance. The school is considering not offering individual reservations but selling tables of 8. Mr. Ohnoutka shared that the school is not pursuing a second PPP loan but it is investigating a COVID-related program that may provide funding for improvements to school ventilation—something needed at Scotus. Presently one staff member and 2 students are quarantined at home. The school has also received a credible second evaluation of the condition of the Dowd Activity Center floor. This evaluation offered that a full replacement of the gym floor was not needed; and therefore Scotus will be refinishing the floor, adding new decals, replacing the crash mats and doing other improvements to the facility.

OLD BUSINESS     None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Teacher Salary. Lisa Kaslon moved and Fr. Ross seconded a motion to go into executive session and the motion carried at 7:02 pm. Fr. Ross moved and Shannon Kosch seconded a motion to move out of executive session and the motion carried at 7:11 pm. Lisa Kaslon moved and Shannon Kosch seconded a motion to authorize administration the ability to increase the faculty base salary up to 4% for the 2021-2022 contracts based on budget outlook and the motion carried.

B. 2021-22 Tuition. Mr. Ohnoutka shared that he would like to move tuition to cover 40% of the cost to educate a student, parish tuition assistance to cover 25% and development/endowment to cover 35%.

He noted that the proposed tuition increase would bring tuition to the 40% level. Parishes would be contributing about \$2,100 for each student attending Scotus. Shannon Kosch moved and Tim Beaver seconded a motion to increase tuition from \$3,100 to \$3,400 for grades 9-12 and from \$3,000 to \$3,300 for grades 7-8 for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion carried.

C. 2021-22 School Calendar. Mr. Ohnoutka noted that the proposed calendar is nearly identical with the three Columbus Catholic grade school calendars and that faith formation in-service will be conducted as Columbus Catholic schools. Lisa Kaslon moved and Jay Pelan seconded a motion to accept the proposed calendar for the 2021-2022 school year and the motion carried.

D. ACT Aspire Report. Mr. Ohnoutka provided a review of the test results from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The test scores are used to predict college readiness. Nearly all of the scores were above the national average. He added that a better measure of assessment is to test the student's instructional reading level—at what level are students understanding the material. This can be assessed at different times of the year so that instructors can adjust their teaching strategies to address needed improvement areas.

E. Serving Alcohol at the Alumni Tourney & Gala. Mike Dreesen moved and Kathy Steiner seconded a motion to allow the serving of alcohol at the alumni basketball post-tourney dinner and the Gala dinner/auction. The motion carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee. Mr. Ohnoutka provided a review of the December financial reports for the Scotus general fund and cafeteria. For the school's general fund, Mr. Ohnoutka noted that year-to-date tuition income is up \$12,000 and total income is down \$4,618 compared to budgeted expectations. Year-to-date expenses are \$43,627 below expectations so the budget stands in a good position. The cafeteria budget shows year-to-date net income is approximately \$25,000 to the good of the budget. Meals for the entire school year are being paid for by the government. Jay Pelan moved and Fr. Joe seconded a motion to approve the general fund and cafeteria finance reports and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Mike Dreesen moved and Fr. Ross seconded a motion to go into executive session and the motion carried at 7:56 pm. Fr. Ross moved and Kathy Steiner seconded a motion to go out of executive session at 8:34 pm. Mike Dreesen moved and Fr. Mike seconded a motion to offer a contract to Jeff Ohnoutka as the superintendent (executive director of Columbus Catholic grade schools) and president of Scotus Central Catholic for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion carried.

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting. The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, February 18, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The finance committee meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

B. Professional Contracts.

#### ROUNDTABLE

Announcements were made by board members.

Fr. Joe moved and Fr. Ross seconded a motion to adjourn and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Schueth