

REPORT ON BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, February 21, 2023

The February board meeting of the Kuemper Catholic School Board was called to order by the president, Tom Brincks, on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Kuemper High School Library. The meeting was opened with the school board prayer. Members present included Joe Behrens, Carrie Meyers, Allisa Tiefenthaler, Laura Schaefer, Fr. Kevin Richter, Fr. Terry Roder and Bob Lally. Fr. Michael Cronin joined virtually.

Also present were President John Steffes, administrators Ted Garringer and Kathi Milligan, and business managers Kris Collison and Christie Sundrup.

Students in Vocational Agriculture/FFA were present at the meeting. Owen Pietig and Mason Bluml provided a brief overview of recent FFA activities, including managing the Kuemper-owned plot.

The motion to approve January 17, 2023, board meeting minutes was made by Laura Schaefer and seconded by Bob Lally. The motion passed.

Bright Knight Moments

The administration shared Bright Knights moments, including a big thank you to all who helped make Catholic Schools Week a success and the student section's great sportsmanship at the basketball games.

Administrative and Staff Reports

Written reports were submitted by John Steffes, Ted Garringer, Kathi Milligan, and Mike Power.

Marketing and Enrollment

Erin Sundrup's report stated Catholic Schools Week was a huge success. The Bishop's visit was a highlight for many. The Knight Crawl had 32 crawlers and walkers this year. Discover Kuemper Preschool night will be held on Wednesday, March 29th. Kuemper Town Hall Meeting will occur on Thursday, February 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Kuemper High School. John, Ted, Kathi, Ryan, and Erin will be presenting on five major successes of Kuemper in the last five years. Erin has seen an uptick in people interested in Kuemper over the past few weeks—thirteen new families on the interest list.

Alumni/Annual Giving

Heather Peitig's report states the Kuemper Ball is in full swing! The Kuemper Ball Kick-off went very well on January 25, 2023. The Kuemper Ball will be held at the Kuemper Fieldhouse on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Lidderdale will cater the food—live music by Tony Bohlenkamp's Dueling Pianos. Heider (\$10,000 Blitz match) and Hannasch (matching gifts after \$600,000 is raised) are back again this year!

Development/Fundraising - Foundation

Alan Loew's written report states the *Faith Forward...Building Excellence in Mind, Body, and Soul* Capital Campaign continues to receive gifts. *Faith Forward* has reached their Challenge Goal of 9.5 million! To date (February 16, 2023), our campaign has received \$9,605,390.35 in one-time gifts and pledges. Msgr. Lafferty's Tuition 2023 goal is \$836,127 compared to \$850,186 for 2022. As of January 31, \$6,219 has been raised. In addition, the Foundation applied for the Community Foundation of Carroll County grant in November 2022 and was awarded \$20,000. The grant money will be used for playground enhancements at the St. Lawrence site.

Finance & Budget

Christie Sundrup reviewed the general fund income and expenses for January 2023.

Committee Reports

1. Committee Meeting Minutes

a. Leadership and Governance

Tom Brincks shared that the committee welcomed Laura Schaefer as a new member. The policy reading and approval process was reviewed. Diocesan policy reviews are reviewed once by the Kuemper school board. Local Kuemper policy review requires three readings by the Kuemper school board. The committee recommended the first reading of approval of local 2472.a Kuemper policy revisions and the accompanying Long-Range Needs Assessment Process regulation 2472.aR to the school board. Board reviewed local Kuemper policies. Joe Behrens motioned to approve the first reading and revisions of local Kuemper 2472.a and 2472.aR policies and Bob Lally seconded. The motion passed.

B. Building and Grounds

John Behrens spoke on behalf of the Building and Grounds committee. They welcomed a new member to the committee, Andy Reiman, with Carroll Glass. Project ideas were discussed, including the main entrance of the Kuemper High School building and improvements for easier access and a drop-off area.

Projects that will be happening this summer include:

- KHS Art Room Kilm install.
- New windows in the Holy Spirit Center.
- Holy Spirit restroom renovations.
- New flooring in several classrooms.

Katie Reisberg came to the committee to discuss the significant growing repairs on all three buses this year. Two of the older buses need to be replaced. The committee approved to purchase two used yellow buses using funds from the Foundation's capital campaign.

C. Academic Excellence

The Academic Excellence committee welcomed a new committee member, Alyce Neiland, and a high schooler from each grade level. The high schoolers will hold their position until their senior year. The committee reviewed the open job positions for next year - 1st-grade teacher and ½ day Preschool teacher. Ted Garringer discussed course changes for next year. The committee is developing a plan to work with businesses within the community to build a business partnership with grades K-6 for the 2023-2024 school year and expand to grades 7-12. Kathi Milligan reported that ISAPs are being scheduled for Spring. The winter ISAPS results were discussed.

D. Finance Committee

Bob Lally spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. The 2023-2024 tuition rates were discussed and recommended to the board for approval. The parish assessment budget was reviewed. The committee proposes reducing the \$3,375,2023 amount billed to corporate parishes by 15% and eliminating the “doubtful” amounts. Prior parish balances remain due. The final item recommended to the board is a 7% increase on BA Step 1 of the Teacher Salary Schedule and a 7% increase for support staff salaries. The committee discussed an increase for hourly staff below \$15/hour of an additional \$.50/hour. The board reviewed the recommended tuition rates as presented, a 15% decrease in parish assessments, a 7% increase in BA Step 1 Teacher Salary Schedule, and a 7% increase in support staff salaries. Bob Lally motioned to approve the 2023-2024 tuition rates, a 15% decrease in parish assessments, and a 7% increase in BA Step 1 Teacher Salary Schedule and a 7% increase in support staff salaries. Joe Behrens seconded. The motion passed.

New Business

1. Cash Rent Farm Lease with Carroll FFA

The Cash Rent Farm lease with Carroll FFA was up for renewal. The board members discussed and recommended to increase the rent from \$275 to \$300 per acre. John Behrens moved to increase the rent approve the new lease with the Carroll FFA, and Carrie Meyers seconded. The motion passed.

2. RAGBRAI

The City of Carroll will be an overnight stay for bike riders during RAGBRAI this year. The board discussed how Kuempers facilities could be utilized during RAGBRAI. On the Carroll RAGBRAI committee, Laura Schaefer mentioned the RAGBRAI committee visited Carroll recently and scouted out areas for teams.

3. Education Celebration Day - March 1, 2023

John Steffes invited the board members to join the administration and the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education at the state capitol to thank our legislators for parental choice in K-12 education. Governor Reynolds is the keynote speaker.

Personnel

1. Resignations
 - a. Erin Stevens - 7th Grade
 - b. Cheryl Smith - 1st Grade
2. New Hires
 - a. Andrea Pearson - Spanish I Teacher

Joe Behrens moved to go into Executive Session at 5:11 p.m., and Laura Schaefer seconded. The motion passed.

Fr. Richter moved to go out of Executive Session and back into regular session at 5:43 p.m. Joe Behrens seconded.

The board members reviewed the administrative team salaries as presented for 2023-2024 school year.

Closing prayer led by Fr. Terry Roder.

Joe Behrens moved to adjourn at 5:47 p.m., and Bob Lally seconded.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Respectfully submitted,

John Steffes
President

Hannah Heiman
Recording Secretary