

Walla Walla Catholic School Board Meeting Highlights- August 2019

President's Report:

Father Seidel gave an Overview of his summer program at Notre Dame – 10 credits in the month of July, comprised of four courses. Focus was on a culture for learning vs. culture for teaching. Father discussed how the focus was on School culture – root beliefs, core values, shared purpose. As he returns to WWCS to serve as our President, he wants to focus on how we are incorporating our mission statement in everything we do.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Lesko highlighted a new WWCS employee, Mr. Tim Blair. He is a returning alumnus who holds a master's in counseling. Tim will provide instruction for special needs and potentially some administrative work.

The board reviewed the report on current enrollment. Some board members asked if there would be any International students in the WWCS. Jerry Anhorn, WWCS Board Chair indicated we would, in 2020-2021, and it could be as early as January 2020.

Physics and Anatomy & Physiology will be offered for all Juniors and Seniors and Kim Cox would take on teaching Biology and Physical Science at DeSales. Father will advertise the science position, formerly filled by Ms. Larson on a hiring board with Notre Dame to help aide in a broader search for applicants.

Committee Reports:

Technology. Overall spending to date on new technology for the 2019-2020 school year is \$30K of the \$49K budgeted.

A recommendation was made to notify families about the technology purchases we are making this year to keep our parents and families informed.

Building and Grounds (Master Plan): Board members recommended the first meeting for the master plan should be a public meeting.

Jerry Anhorn presented the quotes received for the IT AC Unit in the Aquinas Learning Center. The board reviewed the bids and determined the bid from Total Comfort Solutions (TCS) was the low bid and included the electrical work where others did not. The board voted and approved the bid from TCS to do the AC work. Jerry will notify TCS.

Finance: Kristal Hassler, Finance Chair informed the board on what a great job Edie Mulvihill, WWCS Finance Director, has done getting the school down to one company in QuickBooks. It took countless hours but the benefit of this one account will be significant in the tracking of our financials.

A discussion ensued by board members on the requirement for all families to be in the FACTS system. Claire and Kristal clarified the policy on this, indicating families do not have to be in FACTS if they pay a lump sum tuition payment at the beginning of the school year.

The board conducted a discussion on whether we should have an enrollment plan, capturing a schedule of activities and the dates these activities occur to ensure the board is fully informed on the enrollment process for budgetary and other purposes. Father Seidel will coordinate with Melissa to ensure this plan is developed.

Strategic Planning: Claire Valente briefed the board that they should to see a revision to the parent engagement pillar in the strategic plan in the near future. The genesis of the change is the parent survey, which showed a lot of parental satisfaction with the WWCS, however some parents do not feel fully engaged. Updating the parent engagement pillar should help us improve in the area of parent engagement. One of the goals of updating this portion of the strategic plan is to ensure parents are aware they do not have to be on the school board to be on a school board committee.

Claire Valente led the board in an exercise on the WWCS mission statement and vision statement. The purpose was to help the board recognize how important it is to institutionalize our mission statement. The vision statement is just as important.

Claire discussed how we can always share our mission and vision statement by remembering the following analogies:

Who are we? A community of disciples

What do we do? Work together

For what purpose? So students excel in learning and virtue

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 26, at 6:30 pm, DeSales. All are welcome.