

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Minutes - September 26, 2019 - DeSales Catholic High School

**Call to Order:** Jerry Anhorn called meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Fr. Seidel started with prayer.

**Board Members Present:** Claire Valente, Andrea Renholds, Joyce Sanks, Ruthann Haider, Brenda Shields, Jerry Anhorn, Fr. Seidel, Deacon Jim Barrow, Elly Sherry, Kristal Hassler,

**Board Members Absent:** David Byma, Fr. Nicks, Marleen Ramsey

**Administrators and Staff Present:** John Lesko, Melissa Thiessen, Jamie VanWormer, Edie Mulvihill

**Guests Present:** John Wheeler

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Jerry Anhorn asked for a motion to approve the August 2019 regular meeting minutes. Claire Valente motioned for approval of the minutes with typographical corrections as noted, Jim Barrows seconded. All members present voted to approve prior months minutes.

**President's Report:** Fr. Seidel

Provide proper space and dedicated time for new hires to do their jobs. There was a communications miss with parents about the ineligibility for playoffs with the switch to 8-man football. Continuing to work on academic excellence via discussions around differentiated instruction in the classroom and math program. Jim Barrow asked about the teaching nuns, and there has been some progress by the Bishop on the subject. Kristal Hassler noted that communication seemed messy through Skyward and it's multiple lists for certain sports, programs, etc. We will be transitioning from Skyward to Flocknote, which should alleviate some confusion.

**Principal's Report:** John Lesko

Nazareth Guild held a gala event and WWCS was well represented. Nick Hazeltine is reviewing basketball coaches. We still have open applications for winter cheer coach.

Next year there will be a classification change for athletic leagues based on the WIAA change in counting students who participate in the free and reduced lunch programs. We need to notify the state by December of our choice, to be eligible for 2020-2021 playoffs. Lots of political maneuvering in the background by many schools until the official public school counts are made in October. Waiting to hear what Dayton-Waitsburg, Mabton, Liberty Christian in 3-cities decide. We have been 1B status for a long time, but play in the 2B league. It is possible to have different sports in different leagues, but very difficult to schedule.

The administration is currently looking at differentiated classroom instruction at the K-8 level, which may lead up to high school in the future. Claire Valente suggested we advertise the science teacher earlier rather than later in the year to help bring in a wider set of candidates.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Kristal Hassler, chair, Edie Mulvilhill reporting

Making good progress on reconciling our books into one system, but not fully done. Fiscal year 2019 done. Some of the current account numbers will be changing in the future, but more or less the structure is in place going forward. Tuition income seems significantly lower in the statements than expected; potential accounting issue. Full paid tuition is in the prepaid account that will be moved over monthly. Edie will follow up with that. The board asked for some simplified documents to be presented for our review. The treasurer is adamant that the board have access and eyes on our accounts monthly for accountability. Edie will work with Jerry's suggestion for next month. Delinquencies look very good at this time.

**Marketing:** Melissa Thiessen, chair

We are reinventing the retention and enrollment committee. They are currently looking at data from the last 5 years. Engagement of current families to begin after Sausage Fest. A wide mix of faculty, past parents, and current parents on committee. Current enrollment is 258 students, with 88 at DeSales. Last year was 263. 2 Kindergarteners left due to preparedness issues. It's too late for our waitlist parents to enroll, so thinking about how to change that process for next year. 1 high-school withdrawal from the school side. The entire public school enrollment is down and they are planning on closing one whole grade-school, Blue Ridge. Meanwhile, College Place is adding in a Kinder and 3rd grade class. More young families moving to College Place than Walla Walla.

**Nominating:** Claire Valente, chair

We have a charge for every committee. Marleen has asked for an administrative staff member to join the Policy committee. Nominating committee is only 2 people and they need another board member or 2 to join. Serving on board committees is a good way to start and perhaps transition over onto the board. The process for becoming a board member is to fill out a questionnaire, be nominated by a board member or nominating committee, come to a meeting to see what we do, be approved by Fr. Nicks, and then get elected. There is a different process for the faculty and parent representatives. Only 40% of our board members can be parents. Terms are for 3 years, only allowing 2 consecutive terms.

**Policy:** Marleen Ramsey, chair, written report in her absence. Jim Barrow reporting. Currently reviewing 12 interim policies to determine if they are in effect, or have expired and are to be thrown out. Getting the policy book cleaned up and ready for digitization for electronic copies instead of paper ones. Met with Mona Geidl, former policy chair, to

go over questions on passed policies. Would like an administrative representative added to the policy committee.

**Catholic Identity:** Annie Guest, chair written report  
No board action at this time

**Safety:** John Lesko, chair  
Added Jennifer Kontos to the committee. Security assessment report by a security professional received and will be subject of future committee meetings. The county did an onsite evaluation. Based on that, we have new playground bark thanks to a generous donor and the work of John Wheeler and other parents who did the hard labor for free. There is federal money for staff training on security. A grant for \$4k was awarded for security doors and remote entry at Assumption.

**Building and Grounds:** Jerry Anhorn, chair  
There have been good comments and questions from the 2 public forums on the master planning. Most like the idea of one campus and we are split on one building vs. two. Everyone wants separation between the younger and older kids. 2 more forums are coming up, Oct. 12th at 2pm and Oct 19th at 10:30 am. We have a very motivated community. See Echo, Oregon and Colton for K-12 models that are current and working well for their communities. The locker room floors will be done between sports season.

**Strategic Planning:** Claire Valente, chair  
Vision statement should be memorized by the board. Paint on the wall or hang a banner before Sausage Fest. We could pay for a banner out of old class funds. Jim Barrow motioned to authorize making a banner for Sausage Fest, and Kristal Hassler seconded. All present voted in favor.

**Technology:** Andrea Renholds, chair  
An update on our allocation of funds for the year. 25 new touch chromebooks for the K-2 building, to be housed in Ms. Shields room. 5 new pcs and 5 new macs for the DeSales computer classes. 15 new chromebooks for DeSales and new memory for the math desktops. We held some money in reserves for the year, and looks like a \$6k license for the web filtering software is up for renewal for both schools.

**Other Business:** The annual fund is coming up.

**Mission Moment:**

Fr. Seidel - A new family with students being raised by their grandparents pass the graveyard where mom is buried and say "hi" everyday on their way to school.

Football cheer section is doing a very good job on integrating new students. Good size crowd at volleyball too.

Kristal Hassler - Junior class retreat was fabulous and happy to have it back.

Mrs. Woods 5th grade class had students in conflict before Wednesday Mass, and the homily settled the dispute.

**Good of the Order:** None

**15 Minute Public Comment Period:** Good educational experience for grandkids. John Wheeler

**Closing Prayer lead by Fr. Curtis Seidel:**

O Christ, our Teacher, You have commanded your people, "Go out and teach all nations." We thank You for the gift of our Walla Walla Catholic Schools, and we ask that you continue to guide them and preserve them. Please send your Spirit upon the students, faculty, and staff of DeSales and Assumption. Fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Impart to our teachers and staff strength and zeal in their noble task of Catholic education. Grant that our students grow to be disciples of Jesus Christ – strong in virtue, exceptional in learning, and generous in service. We ask this through the intercession of St. Francis DeSales and of our Blessed Mother, assumed into heaven. Amen

**Meeting adjourned** by Jerry Anhorn at 8:30PM.

**Executive Session:** Yes

**Minutes prepared by:** Andrea Renholds

**Next Meeting:** Executive Session at 5pm followed by regular board meeting, Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:30pm in DeSales Thomas Aquinas Learning Center