**SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI**

**Springfield Catholic High School - Room #301**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 12, 2024**

**Present:**, Msgr. Reidy, Margaret Calliotte, Cheryl Bond, Becky Conroy, Ryan O’Reilly, Sr. Cecilia Ann, Fr. Lewis Hejna, Boyd Crockett, Paige Duda, JoAnne Bailes, Jane Fairchild, Fr. Patrick Nwokoye, Fr. Tom Kiefer,

**Absent**: Kent Lammers, Lary O’Reilly, Jeanne Skahan, Ashley Harris, Lindsay Wright,

**Guests**: Brian Pyck

**OPENING PRAYER** 6:03 PM Msgr. Reidy opened the meeting with a prayer.

**REVIEW OF CONSENT ITEMS**

The August minutes and September Consent Agenda and items were reviewed prior to the meeting. Since Kent Lammers, School Board President, was absent, Jane Fairchild, School Board Secretary, led the meeting in his absence. Jane asked for a motion to approve the consent items and minutes. This motion was made by Boyd Crokett and seconded by Ryan O’Reilly. The motion was approved.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Brian Pyck shared the following:

**Athletics and Softball Facilities**

- lack of facilities for the girls' softball program, which has significant momentum but no dedicated fields.

- the challenges of renting fields and the safety concerns of students traveling long distances for games.

- emphasized the importance of sustainability and participation in youth sports, encouraging coaches to work with younger students.

- addressed issues of bullying and the need for better communication between coaches, parents, and students.

- shared examples of how Catholic values are integrated into sports, such as group prayers and community outreach.

- mentioned the need for better management of resources for sports events to reduce costs and improve community engagement.

**REPORTS**

**Financial Statements:** Margaret Calliotte presented the July and August financial statements, detailing the cash and cash equivalents, operating income, and various funds. Our average of Catholic students vs non-Catholic students has gone up. Presently 73% of our students are Catholic. We are currently down 22 students from budget. A motion to approve the financials was made by Ryan O’Reilly and seconded by Fr. Tom Kiefer. The motion was approved.

**Director of Schools:**  Sr. Cecilia Ann shared that we plan to go to utilize a Rolling Enrollment process for next school year. A letter has been drafted and will be sent to families around October 15 explaining the new process. She shared that our annual School Board/Development Board will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at Springfield Catholic High School. Bishop Rice will celebrate a Mass for us at 6:30 p.m. in the high school chapel. We will then have a hot dinner followed by a reflection by Bishop Rice, a short time of group discussion, and then a closing prayer. Sister also shared that Keven Szawala will be coming to Springfield on Thursday, October 24, 2024, to talk to our parents about Cyberbullying and Social Media. On Friday, October 25 he will give a 9 a.m. talk to our high school students and a 1 p.m. talk to our junior high students (7th & 8th grade from Immaculate Conception, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Agnes, and St. Joseph’s Catholic Academy) at 1 p.m. We are also starting to use the Bullying Report Form and Investigation Forms presented at our last meeting. We will aim to get the Bullying Report Form online so it can be submitted electronically.

**Director of Development:** Becky Conroy announced the upcoming Alumni Weekend, (Sept. 13 & 14) including an alumni football game, school tours, and a Mass with Bishop Leibrecht. She mentioned the new fall fundraiser, Shamrock Showdown, (Sept. 28) and the construction of a donor wall to consolidate previous building funds. Becky shared the news of a significant planned gift from an alumnus, totaling around $1.2 million, and the recommended disbursement plan as follows:

-The Shepherds' Fund: $600,000

-SCS Security: $50,000

-Technology: $100,000

-Operations (Enrollment Coordinator (multi-year)): $130,000

-Operations (Endowment Shortage due to calendar shift): $100,000

-Catalog of Gifts-Faculty Faith Formation & Catholic Identity: $20,000

-Donor Wall Construction: $25,000

-Irish Impact Annual Fund: $25,000

-Alumni Association: $10,000

-Maintenance Reserve: $168,000

A motion to approve the disbursement of the planned alumnus gift was made by Ryan O’Reilly and was seconded by Fr. Lewis Hejna. The motion was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Sr. Cecilia Ann (for Larry O’Reilly) provided updates on maintenance and construction, including the installation of LED lights for various fields. We are still in the process of getting a few more bids -specially for the tennis courts. Once all the bids are in, we will review and determine the next best step. Sister mentioned the need to fill potholes in the back drive area before the cold weather sets in.

Margaret Calliotte mentioned the potential depreciation of certain assets and the impact on the budget, which is under discussion with the Finance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**:

JoAnne Bailes discussed the faculty relations committee's consideration of a late start initiative, based on staff interest. JoAnne will send out a survey this coming week to the teachers to gauge their interest in a late start option. It will be due the first week of October. She explained the survey process and the potential start times of 9:00, 9:30 AM or 10:00 AM, with lunch arrangements to be discussed further. Both Sr. Cecilia Ann and JoAnne shared the potential benefits and challenges of implementing a late start, considering the current work environment and family dynamics.

**CLOSING PRAYER** Fr. Thomas Kiefer closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting ended at 6:59 p.m.