

Guardian Angels Central Catholic

School Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Leanne Ritter called the meeting to order.

Fr. Weeder began the meeting with a prayer.

Roll Call was taken. Board members present included: Matt Ridder, Leanne Ritter, Ryan Steffensmeier, Carmen Schlickbernd, Tracy Schwer, Ben Borgmann, Dan Woodbury, Tom Hagedorn.

Board Members not present: Jeff Timmerman, Mark Wooldrik.

School Administration present: John Naatz, Justin Wardyn, Paula Peatrowsky.

Minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed. Ryan made the motion to approve.

Tom seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Booster Club: Shea Stokely, president of Booster Club, mentioned they have a March Madness fundraiser going on currently. Alumni Weekend is this weekend. Still looking for volunteers. They have purchased shot clocks for both gyms that should integrate into our system. Price was roughly \$4,500.

Development Committee: none

SPA: Currently funding the field trips upcoming for the grade school. The drive-thru supper fundraiser has been rescheduled for May 1, 2024, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Capital Campaign: Lisa Eisenmenger mentioned it was officially launched on February 17, 2024. As of today, so far in pledges, we have received \$791,900. We have collected \$616,504. Still looking for donors and people to help on the solicitation committee. If anyone is interested in helping, there will be a training meeting on March 26, 2024, in Room 102 of the high school. Lisa said she would email all meeting notes to school board members. Lisa also did a brief overview of how to fill out the pledge/donation cards.

Facilities: Matt Ridder mentioned he has received a drawing for the high school bathroom remodel. There was a discussion as to the new layouts. Regarding the men's restroom, there is not much room between countertops and bathroom stall doors. Regarding the women's restroom, there is not much room between the door to enter the bathroom and the first stall door. All attempts are being made to make them ADA-acceptable. There was a discussion on the arrangement of the women's toilets. Because the women's is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, it was also discussed not having a handicapped stall. Matt Ridder suggested, for the men's bathroom, leaving the toilets and urinals as they are. It was decided to ask the contractor for soft numbers for the remodel.

Regarding HVAC for GA we have plans and specs. The new layout will be a two-tier design on the same side as the existing units. Matt reached out to three local contractors to see if they are

interested in putting in bids. This project will be let for bids on April 11, 2024. Will need to have a special meeting to approve bids.

Finance: Matt made the motion to approve. Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

Currently working on the budgets for 2024-2025. Working on how to work in president's salary. It was also discussed merging the two budgets together since the schools will be under one company. Working on specific split outs for certain line items that have been paid partly by the church. Tom questioned the assessment for St. Anthony's. With the merger, St. Mary's will have to take over that assessment.

Regarding the audit: Bland & Assoc. is not interested in doing the audit for the school. John has also spoken to Frankel. The cost would be between \$150-\$200/hour. Another option would be to hire Alex Zimmerman on an individual-basis as an accounting consultant for \$100/hour. He is very qualified with many years of experience. He would make trips to West Point, do Zoom meetings, and work from home. John has not heard back from Ide Bailey yet. Ryan spoke to Lutz. They are interested in doing the audit as well. The cost could run up to \$20k. They would like to talk to schools, parish, and endowment committees. They would initially help to set up accounts and policies/procedures. The audit will take place in the second year. Ryan will ask for a more detailed cost of the process.

Governance: nothing to report

Teacher Excellence: nothing to report.

Communications: Tracy raised a question from the Capital Campaign meeting. People have been asking where they can find more information. Is there a better way to direct people to find the answers? Lisa emphasized it was more important to have a consistent message. Keep pushing people to the website for answers. A suggestion was made to host a "town hall" type of meeting. John suggested this could be done quarterly. Matt thought we could schedule one in August and then move forward from that meeting as to how many more we should do.

GACC President's Report: John said he has received five applications for the Director of Finance position. John would like to move forward on this after Easter. Ryan has copies of all of the applications. John has completed his one-on-one SWOT analysis with the staff. A total of 52 interviews have been conducted. Two more people would still like to have a meeting with him. Once he has met with them, he will put together a report of the results. John has not received any inquiries on the Capital Campaign. Today, he met with Justin and Paula regarding space and staff. They looked at data on enrollment numbers, graduation requirements, elective classes, class sizes, teacher load, Archdiocesan standards, entrance requirements for our graduates who attend colleges/universities, and teachers who potentially may be leaving. With the hiring freeze, 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be supported by an in-house science teacher and full-time aides. There is limited/no space for special ed students. They will be looking for partitions that can be used in the library. We have no certified teacher for the art classes. We have one more year of a grace period to satisfy Rule 10. Better use of resources in the high school. Justin will assist Leslie Kreikemeier in creating the master schedule for the high school. Leanne questioned our need for a Resource/Special Ed teacher. Paula mentioned that two of our new hires have their degree in special education. We will now have three teachers on staff who have this

endorsement. Paula is looking at this when she is doing the classroom placement of students. Justin mentioned that Kim Knobbe is coming back for another year on a part-time status.

#### New Business:

Justin: Rule 10 mentioned we need 1,080 hours at the high school level and 1032 at the grade school level. The high school will fall slightly short due to snow days and state basketball days off. It was decided to cut lunch short by 5 minutes and extend the day by 5 minutes.

Paula: The Bluejay Way was introduced by Paula. This is for students who have gone above and beyond the Bluejay way. Teachers will nominate students. Their names will be drawn out during lunch. They will receive a T-shirt and a certificate. The Spring Musical will be on April 10 at the Nielsen Center at 6:30 pm with a Hawaiian Theme. The Department of Roads will be coming to make a presentation to the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They are going to be bringing their heavy machinery for the kids to look at and ask questions.

Leanne: Salary Scale. With the school board becoming limited jurisdiction and contracts going out in January. There were some hiccups. In prior years, the cost of living increase was 2%. The Executive committee decided this year it would be a 3% increase, and it would be reflected in the base pay. Tracy made the motion to accept this increase. Dan seconded. No other discussion was asked for. Motion carried.

Teacher/Student ratio for the elementary. We need to establish a guideline for the ratio. We never want to let a teacher go because of class size, so it is just used as a guide. Primary (K-3) will split at a lower number. Suggested at 24/25. Intermediate (4-6) would split at 29.

Matt made the motion to accept the guidelines. Carmen seconded. Motion carried.

A tuition meeting has been set for April 3, 2024, from 5-6 p.m. in the cafeteria with all of the stakeholders. This will help set tuition. Tuition has typically been raised by 2% annually.

It was suggested by the Executive Board to increase tuition by 5%; \$160 increase at the high school level. The Activity Center Fee is very hard to keep track of for Rochelle. Would like to eliminate this fee as a separate item. It was asked if it could be rolled into the tuition. It was also suggested that it go back to the old way to be collected by coaches. We would like to have a conversation with the Booster Club. Dual Credit classes are not being subsidized by Northeast Community College. It was discussed to charge the parents \$25/credit hour/student. This money would be passed on to the teacher in full. It was also suggested that the new finance person would handle all of the tuition bills/payments. It was suggested to come up with a way to clean up the electricity bills for the Activity Center.

Ryan made the motion to accept the 5% tuition increase. Ben seconded. Motion carried.

Tracy made the motion to assess the \$25/credit hour/student to the student for the Northeast classes. Matt seconded. Motion carried.

Matt made the motion to eliminate the \$50 activities fee. Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

Suggested School Board Nominees: Dave Karnopp, Luke Schmid, Allyn Knobbe, Alisa Brunsing. Will need to decide during the May meeting who will be on the ballot.

The meeting ended with the Angel of God prayer.

Ryan made the motion to adjourn. Tom seconded. Motion carried.