

Diocesan Catholic School Board (DCSB)
Cathedral Square Center - Room D/E
Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

I. **Prayer** offered by Phil May.

II. **Roll Call:**

Present: Jill Annable, Andrew Blum, Rev. Tom Cavera, Dave Faber, Rosa Fraga, Sue Haas-Williams (Advisory), Jo Jones, Phil May, Rev. Godfrey Onyekwere, Sr. Rosita Schiller, Dick Schneider, Leah Wareck

Absent: Dave Sipka (via phone), John Vande Guchte

Others Present: Conrad Cuncannan, Shelley Hofmann, Renee Vaughan-Dwyer

Communications: none

III. **Approval of February Minutes:** approved as written.

IV. **Discussion Topics:**

A. BCSI Update - GRACEAC Athletic Update (Conrad Cuncannan)

Conrad presented a new GRACEAC Athletic Calendar.

The winter season will now be split into Winter 1 and Winter 2 beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Reasons for changing the calendar include:

- Competing with travel and club basketball for players
- Shortens the season a bit without reducing the number of games
- Encourages more participation for our school teams
- Public schools and other Christian schools use this same calendar
- Gives us an opportunity to join other leagues if necessary
- Gives us more flexibility to add more sports during the winter season.

The question about whether girls can participate in wrestling was raised. To date, there has not been any interest. Dave will discuss this with diocesan counsel, so we are prepared should interest arise.

Is there a one-week "sit period" between sports seasons? There is nothing mandated or scheduled. There will be a slight overlap with football and basketball seasons.

Conrad also presented the DCSB with a revised GRACEAC organizational chart. GRACEAC is redefining roles and responsibilities.

B. Inclusion Work Group Update

Dave shared some history of the Inclusion Work Group. The group's previous meetings have been more reactionary to specific events, but the March meeting was more proactive. Two group members have resigned from the group. Both members remain on our communication distribution list and the invitation to re-join the group remains open.

The Inclusion Work Group is specifically focused on diversity, equality and inclusion based on

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race and ethnicity. The group began as a forum for dialogue following events where allegations of racism were brought forward. Later three main goals emerged: 1) Establish a Mentor Program at Catholic Central High School (CCHS); 2) Create an Expo opportunity where families of color are introduced to our high schools and given the opportunity to let us know their needs and how we might help address those needs; and 3) Develop a Climate Survey to implement at CCHS and West Catholic High School (WCHS).

We are all created individually and uniquely by God; however, we cannot assume that all people share that understanding. There are inequities in race and ethnicity, and we need to work to understand the history of these inequities and open our hearts to helping heal these inequities. We need to ensure our schools provide resources for African American and Latino students during times of trauma in their communities.

We reviewed the Climate Survey. Grand Valley State University is administering the Climate Survey in April for CCHS and WCHS. In question #10, "sexual orientation" is included and given the same weight as race and ethnicity. What responsibility does this mean for our Catholic high schools? Will the students have an expectation of change that may not align with Catholic values? A suggestion was made to change the wording of "sexual orientation" to "same sex attraction".

Could we use the term "school climate" instead of "institutional climate"?

Should Catholic identity be included in the list of reasons a student believes he/she was discriminated against?

V. **Committee Reports**

- A. **Admissions Committee:** report included in the packet was reviewed. The Admissions Committee is finalizing their presentation for the Board Summit.
- B. **Finance Committee:** report was sent in a separate email.
- C. **Strategic Planning Committee:** no report. For the Summit, Sue will continue to work with schools who want to walk through the strategic planning process. Are there any schools who are beginning the strategic planning process and might be able to share their experience? Corpus Christi, Ludington Area Catholic, All Saints Academy, Holy Spirit, ABVM are the five schools who should be on the suggested cycle and beginning the strategic planning process. STMBR and MCC recently completed their plans. Shelley will send Sue contact information for these schools.
- D. **Executive Committee:** no report
- E. **Mission Effectiveness Committee:** report included in the packet was reviewed. For the Summit, the Mission Effectiveness (ME) Committee will focus on the five elements of what makes a school Catholic. The hope is to have each participant describe their ME's committee

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role and plans. The DCSB ME Committee also would like to better understand from participants how they can help schools with their work. Dave suggested incorporating the nine National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools' nine defining characteristics as well.

F. **Marketing Committee:** no report. Leah and Greg have developed their presentation for the Board Summit. Greg will lead the session as Leah will be on maternity leave.

G. **Development Committee:** no report

H. In addition to each committee breakout session, Dave is going to lead a session on the recruitment and training of new school board members.

At the May 7th DCSB meeting, Dave would like to give a presentation of Catholic school governance and the various models.

VI. **Superintendent/Asst. Superintendent Reports (questions addressed):**
No questions.

VII. **Action Items:**

A. Final Bylaws Updates Approval

Sue motioned to approve the bylaws as amended. There was no additional discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The changes will be accepted, and a new copy will be issued to all DCSB members.

VIII. **New Business:** no new business.

IX. **Closing Prayer:** Prayer for Bridging Faith and Future was prayed by all.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The Board Summit is on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.
The next DCSB meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 2019.