

**Diocesan Catholic School Board (DCSB)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

- I. **Prayer** offered by Sue.

- II. **Roll Call** - Sue welcomed Sister Colleen Ann Nagle to the board. DCSB members briefly introduced themselves.

Present: Andrew Blum (virtual), Dave Faber, Sarah Grey, Sue Haas-Williams, Rev. Darrel Kempf (virtual), Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle, Patty Schrand, Tim Thimmesch, Leah Wareck

Absent: Damon Bouwkamp, Cheryl Butkus, Kristina Martinez-Precious, Sterling Morse, Rev. Godfrey Onyekwere

Others Present: Shelley Hofmann, Sarah Toepfer (virtual)

- III. **Parent communications about masks and vaccine requirements for fall**
Sue opened the session with a welcome to the parent guest. Sue explained that the DCSB is advisory in nature and has no jurisdiction over the topics being presented. She reiterated that the board was happy to listen to parents' concerns. One parent addressed the board regarding mask usage in Catholic schools.

- IV. **Marketing and Communications Update**
Sarah Toepfer addressed questions about her written report.
 - **When is #GivingTuesday?** #GivingTuesday will be on November 30, 2021 this year. #GivingTuesday was developed about ten years ago in reaction to Black Friday and Small Business Saturday. #GivingTuesday started as a social media effort to recognize giving to non-profit organizations. The Diocese of Grand Rapids (DOGR) started #GivingTuesday about four years ago. This year the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan is leading #GivingTuesday for the DOGR.

- V. **Approval of September Minutes:** approved as written.

- VI. **Committee Reports: Questions from written report**
 - A. **Development** - Andrew shared that Greg Deja, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, will be presenting a toolkit for planned giving at the fall Summit.

 - B. **Strategic Planning** - no questions about the written report.

- VII. **Superintendents' Report** - there were no questions from the written report.

Dave shared a timeline for a potential feasibility study for a potential new Catholic school within the Northwest Deanery. The DCSB recommended that the feasibility study with an extended timeline be presented to Bishop Walkowiak.

Sarah Grey shared that St. Robert Catholic School was recommended for accreditation. Additionally, after this year of accreditation with Cognia, Catholic Central and Muskegon Catholic Central will move to the Michigan Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) for accreditation. With that move, all of our schools will be accredited through the same organization that utilizes the framework of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools (NSBECS).

VIII. Discussion topics

A. Update on schools and COVID -

Dave shared the following updates:

- We are currently at 121 cases with the vast majority of cases among students.
- Some of the teacher cases are among those who are vaccinated.
- In almost 96% of cases, the person was not under quarantine as a result of being a close contact at school.
- Contact tracing is incredibly time-consuming for school leaders.

Dave addressed questions including:

- **How has athletics affected the number of cases?** There have been multiple cases among our sports teams. Contact tracing is especially challenging for Catholic United teams with players from multiple schools.

B. Update on Bridging Faith and Future (BFF) Plan - The Strategic Planning Committee has prepared updates to BFF using the “Top 10 Themes” synthesized from the “Emerging from COVID” conversations, a summary of themes from the 2020-21 Program Effectiveness Survey results, and a summary of the Board Assessment Survey results. Sue provided an overview of the updated sections of the plan.

There was brief discussion about the Vision Metric of all parishes supporting schools being accomplished. The distinction was made between their financial support and their advocacy for Catholic schools. A recommendation was made to use “all parishes advocate for Catholic schools” as a new metric in the refreshed Bridging Faith and Future Plan.

C. Summit Planning

At the Summit, each breakout session will use the last thirty minutes for conversation on the draft Strategies and Vision Metrics for the particular area of concentration (admissions, finance, marketing, etc.). The goal is to listen to school board members and gather feedback, so the DCSB can finalize the revisions.

Dave’s opening video will provide an overview of the map and the process of revision. This explanation should be a helpful introduction for the breakout discussions.

D. Academic Update - NWEA MAPS testing Fall 2021

Sarah Grey gave an overview of diocesan averages for elementary MAPS testing this fall. She explained the importance of comparing fall data with winter and spring data to determine growth. Sarah will work with school leaders and teachers on data analysis to ensure we are replicating best practices for growth strategies.

The question “Do we have the capability to compare our data to other dioceses?” was asked. NWEA offers a tool for doing a sample comparison to schools in other dioceses. Sarah will be doing more analysis of our data.

There was also some discussion about Blue Ribbon Schools.

IX. Action Items

A. Feasibility study for new school in Northwest Deanery - this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.

XI. Closing Prayer: Prayer for *Bridging Faith & Future* was prayed by all.

XII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

The Fall Summit is on Wednesday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral Square. The next DCSB meeting is on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral Square.

2021-22 Meeting Schedule

~~September 14, 2021~~

~~October 19, 2021~~

November 3, 2021 (Fall Summit)

November 30, 2021

January 18, 2022

February 22, 2022

March 29, 2022

May 3, 2022 (Spring Summit)

May 10, 2022

June 14, 2022

MISSION

We prepare students to seek and fulfill God’s plan for learning and life.

VISION

Be a collaborative and strategically focused body delivering leadership, mentorship and expert recommendations that enhance the quality and growth of our Diocesan schools.