

**Cedar Valley Catholic Schools  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2009**

**In Attendance:**

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Lay Representative</u>
Blessed Sacrament		Russ Heiple
Queen of Peace	Father Jose	Jake Schaefer J. J. Meier
Sacred Heart	Father Jaeger	Mark Russell Jana Schmitt
St. Edward	Father Kopacek	Donna O'Brien
St. Patrick	Father Secora	Liza Hulme Suzy Luecke

Absent: Father Juhl, Tim Kneeland and Larry Rasmussen

**CVCS Office**

Cathy Walz	Director of Education
Tom Drish	Controller

**Administrators**

Tom Ulses	Columbus
Pam Schowalter	St. Edward
Amy Sandvold	Sacred Heart
Barb Duggan	DRE Representative

**Call to Order:**

Russ Heiple called the meeting to order at 5:01. Father Jaeger led the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Father Kopacek noted that on Page 3 of the May Minutes he had questioned the *depersonalization* rather than *interpersonalization* of the 1-1 computer program proposal. This was noted and will be changed. Jake Schaefer made the motion to accept the May minutes with that correction. Jana Schmitt seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Correspondence:**

-Condolences were sent to Sue Schoeberl on the loss of her husband and to Janet Schupbach on the loss of her father.

-Congratulations to Sue Davis on Teacher of the Year award.

**Information:**

No new information to be reported for June.

**In-service: None.**

**Address to the Board: None**

**Action Items:****AP European History Trip Request - Mr. Tom Ulses and Mr. Gary Schnieders**

Mr. Schnieders handed out the completed CVCS Trip Request Form with all the information on the trip as well as itinerary, which will take place in the spring of 2010. He explained there could be a slight change in the trip dates. Dates listed on the sheet were Monday, March 22 - Friday, April 2. He noted this was Good Friday and he was trying to find flights where they would be able to leave Sunday, March 21, and return on Thursday, April 1. There are currently 31 students (all seniors) who plan on taking the trip with 17-21 chaperones. Projected cost of the trip will be \$2650/person. Father Kopacek thanked Mr. Schnieders for being aware that the dates involved Holy Thursday and Good Friday and for calling the area pastors ahead of time to check on this. Father Kopacek made the motion for approval. Donna O'Brien made the second. The motion carried.

**Finance Committee Approvals - Tom Drish****New Scoreboard Proposal - Mr. Tom Drish**

Mr. Drish handed out the New Scoreboard Proposal to purchase a new outdoor scoreboard for the football/soccer stadium as well as outdoor scoreboard for the baseball field. This is actually Phase 2 of this project as the scoreboards in the gym and softball fields have already been done.

Scoreboards will be purchased from Iowa Direct, a local company out of Cedar Falls. The cost of the project is \$11,850 for the stadium scoreboard and \$6140 for the baseball scoreboard, for a total of \$17,990. As far as funding, \$8,390 will come from the Columbus Booster Club and \$9600 will come from Columbus scoreboard advertising revenue.

It was explained the scoreboards are needed due to the age and condition of existing scoreboards. Jake Schaefer added that this was a necessity as he has dealt with through his work at Young Arena as the companies are going to all LED lights and with the age of our scoreboards Iowa Direct sometimes doesn't even have the parts or bulbs needed for repair of the current ones. Mark Russell made the motion to accept the proposal. Father Jaeger made the second. Motion passed.

**April Finances - Mr. Tom Drish**

Mr. Drish asked for approval of the April finances. Barb Duggan had a question regarding the debt-reduction line, and Mr. Drish explained this. Father Jaeger made the motion they be accepted and Donna O'Brien gave the second. The approval of the finance report was granted.

**Certified Staff Resignation - Russ Heiple**

Russ presented letters of resignation from Erica Andrews, Business/Technology teacher at Columbus, and from Pat Eldridge, Theology instructor at Columbus. Suzy Luecke made the motion to approve these resignations. Jana Schmitt made the second.

Mr. Eldridge did request that the fee for breaking contract be waived. The board discussed this and Jake Schaefer made the motion that Mr. Eldridge's resignation be accepted with waiving the fee. J.J. Meier made the second, and the motion carried.

**Certified Staff Approvals - Russ Heiple**

Russ Heiple presented the Board members with a list of new Certified Staff Hires. Lindsay Smith was hired as the FT St Edward's Music instructor; Nick Wiltgen was hired as the FT CVCS Middle School Band Instructor; Michael Green was hired for the Columbus Catholic High School Business Instructor position; and Clarissa Matthews was hired to teach 4th grade at Blessed Sacrament.

Jana Schmitt made the motion to approve these hires. Jake Schaefer made the second. Motion carried.

### **Technology Planning - Mr. Tom Drish**

Mr. Drish gave a handout with cost projections for the proposed 1-1 laptop computer program through Apple. The handout was multiple pages showing different options of payment plans for the computers. It is being looked at to implement the program for the 2011-2012 school year which would leave the next two years to prepare staff and make any physical preparations that would need to be made. The program proposes a laptop for each student in grades 6-12. The computer would be that students for the next 3 years with the option of purchase at the end of those three years. CVCS would need to seek loan approval from the Arch, but this has been discussed and the Arch has already quoted an interest rate of 1.50%, which the finance people at Apple really couldn't touch. In looking at a laptop for 532 students and 103 teachers/administrators, CVCS would be looking at a total of 635 computers for a total of \$599,440.00 which is 635 computers at \$944 each. Depending on the insurance plan chosen and how much of the cost CVCS would absorb, the per pupil cost would range from \$253 to \$343 per year for the 3-year time period. This amount would be added to tuition with the reasoning being it would then qualify for STO/tuition assistance consideration. At this time this is still in the proposal stage. It will be going to the Finance Committee at the next meeting. Finance will look at ways for CVCS to pay for this including possibly using some endowment money. Some of the benefits of the program were again discussed, including the major benefit of improving quality of education. Barb Duggan did express great concern with this major amount of increase in tuition leaving people behind, and Father Kopacek questioned whether it could be an option for parents to choose whether their student received a laptop or not. Administrators stated it would not be an option and would be a part of the curriculum as it would defeat the purpose to have the teachers trying to teach to part of the students who had a laptop and part who did not. Mrs. Walz also gave the statistic that at least 95% of our current families have access to computers at home, so it is believed that computers/technology are basically viewed upon as a necessity by at least 95% of our families. Mrs. Sandvold again expressed her excitement over this possibility as, right now at Sacred Heart, the majority of all of the fundraising right now goes straight into technology. A mobile lab, consisting of approximately 25 computers costs approximately \$30-\$35,000, and some of the CVCS schools don't even have this at this point which means by the time each school would have one, there would be the need to start replacing them at the other schools. Again, this will be presented at upcoming Finance meeting and Mr. Drish and Mrs. Walz will be reporting back to the Board with further developments. Motion was made by Liza Hulme to continue moving forward with planning for 1-1 laptop program for Grades 6-12 to begin in the 2011-2012 school year. Donna O'Brien made the second. Motion carried.

### **K-8 Social Studies Textbook Adoption - Mrs. Cathy Walz**

Since the implementation of the Strategic Plan began, there has been a Curriculum committee working to improve and align curriculum based on need through the CVCS schools. Social Studies textbooks are the last phase of this part of the implementation. Grades K-5 will be getting new McGraw-Hill textbooks, and grades 6-8 will be getting Glencoe/McGraw Hill. Cost for books is \$35,459.07 State textbook monies will pay for \$10,865.19 of this with \$24,593.88 left to be paid by CVCS. CVCS has \$29,000 budgeted for the '09-'10 school year for textbooks and consumables. Father Jaeger made the motion to approve the purchase of these textbooks. Mark Russell made

the second. The motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

#### **09/10 CVCS Enrollment Figures - Mrs. Cathy Walz**

Mrs. Walz presented the printout of the to date enrollment and reported that registration for the 2009-2010 school year is at 98% of current enrollment. Administrators again stated they have continued giving multiple tours to families, so that number could continue to go up.

#### **Perpetual Adoration Sign Up - Mr. Russ Heiple**

Sign-up sheet for Perpetual Adoration for the Board's 10 p.m. Saturday spot was again circulated to fill remaining spots for the next 3 months.

### **New Business:**

#### **Farewell to Outgoing Board Members - Mr. Russ Heiple**

Russ thanked current Board members for all their hard work and time committed to helping CVCS schools move forward. He expressed gratitude to each member as the system has come a long way in the years since they started serving on the Board. The Board applauded those members who will not be returning: Donna O'Brien, Jake Schaefer, Larry Rasmussen, and Father Secora.

#### **2009-2010 CVCS Board Members - Mr. Russ Heiple**

Russ reported that the new board member from Blessed Sacrament will be Mary Nichols. The new representative from St. Edward's will be Mark Gallagher. Queen of Peace has not filled their position as of yet. New Board members will begin at the July meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

Father Jaeger made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 pm. Donna O'Brien made the second. The motion was carried.

The next meeting is July 2, 2009 at Columbus Catholic High School.  
(Submitted by J.J. Meier, Vice President)