

**Cedar Valley Catholic Schools
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2009**

In Attendance:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Lay Representative</u>
Blessed Sacrament	Father Juhl	Russ Heiple Larry Rasmussen
Queen of Peace	Father Jose (arrived @6:25)	Jake Schaefer J. J. Meier
Sacred Heart		Mark Russell Jana Schmitt
St. Edward	Father Kopacek	
St. Patrick	Father Secora	Liza Hulme Suzy Luecke

Absent: Father Jaeger, Donna O'Brien and Tim Kneeland

CVCS Office

Cathy Walz	Director of Education
Tom Drish	Controller
Mike Knipp	Development Director

Administrators

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

Call to Order:

Russ Heiple called the meeting to order at 5:04. Russ Heiple led the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Russell made the motion to accept the April minutes. Larry Rasmussen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

Middle School Football Name and Uniforms - Mr. Aundra Meeks

This item was moved up in the agenda. Tanya Cutsforth, Aundra Meeks, Denny Boleyn, Casey McLaughlin, and Mike McNamee were present representing the committee and presented the proposed new name, colors and uniform for the newly-formed combined football team. The team will participate in the WAMAC conference and it will be a sanctioned program. The 6th graders will participate in club football.

The committee explained that there had been a lot of input from the kids, and the team name that had been decided on was Cedar Valley Catholic Sailors. The team colors will be green and white, and the uniforms will be similar to the Columbus uniforms.

Although the team name and colors do not need official approval, since it is the first

combined activity for middle school athletes in our system and sets a precedent for other future joint activities, it was deemed important enough to present the information to the Board. Larry Rasmussen made the motion to approve the program. Father Kopacek gave the second. The motion was passed.

Correspondence:

- Congratulations to Sr. Marie Gemar, recipient of 2009 Gold Star Teacher award.
- Congratulations and appreciation to CVCS retirees: Sr. Norma Jean Holthaus, Deb Murray, Ruth Ullestad, and Steve Webber
- Jake Schaefer expressed his gratitude for all the cards and well wishes on the birth of their baby, Spencer John.

Information:

CVCS Capital Campaign Update - Mr. Mike Knipp

Mr. Knipp informed the Board the campaign is currently at the \$2.3 million mark with the hopes of reaching \$3 million by the middle of next month. The campaign does continue to be in the "silent phase" which can be a drawn out process. Mr. Knipp pointed out that West Des Moines Dowling has been in the "silent phase" of their campaign for the last two years, so really everything seems to be in line for the CVCS Campaign.

There will be a bus going to visit Mazzuchelli Middle School in Dubuque on May 18. The Development Office is in the process of contacting people who might be interested in this tour. The principal of Mazzuchelli, Kim Hermsen, will be conducting a tour and giving information as well as answering questions. The majority of the Board has already visited Mazzuchelli and felt it would be very worthwhile to get a bus with prospective parents and/or donors to visit Mazzuchelli and get a better understanding of the Middle School Philosophy and have a chance to ask questions of a system who has made this transition.

Mr. Knipp informed the Board that there will continue to be small-scale socials held throughout the summer as there had been during the fall and winter.

Also, there will be Brick Memorials available with the chance to buy a brick with said donor's name(s) for \$150. as part of the fundraising for the campaign.

The Board thanked Mr. Knipp for all he is doing to continue to move the campaign in a positive direction.

Address to the Board: None

Inservice: Technology - Cathy Walz & Amy Sandvold

On April 1st, 2nd and 3rd, a group of thirteen traveled to Chicago to the Apple Computer Briefing Center, where they attended several presentations on one-to-one technology learning and a time line of implementing such into the school's curriculum. The team of thirteen included the four principals, Tom Drish, Cathy Walz, the building technology specialists, and three board members. Mrs. Sandvold and Mrs. Walz both expressed the excitement generated through the seminars attended. They shared a handout and some of the presentations that had been used during their seminars. Mrs. Sandvold shared how the experience had truly changed her life as an administrator, a teacher, *and* a parent. She stated the CVCS schools have the groundwork set but now need to go out and go further to

reach technology goals. She expressed how CVCS could be the first system in the archdiocese to attain such a high level of technology and how this could really give the CVCS students a true edge as far as being digital learners.

Mrs. Walz explained how this could especially help CVCS students as they graduate into the work force. In the books The World is Flat and A Whole New Mind, there is an expressed need for designers, creators and decision makers. The one-to-one learning teaches students collaborative, inquiry-based learning and would better equip students with what is needed in the current and future work force. Mrs. Walz stated Mr. Drish and Russ Heiple will be presenting more details as to the costs and financing options at the June meeting.

At this time it is proposed that we continue technology integration and working towards a one-to-one laptop ratio for grades 6-12 and then work down the technology ratio in the younger grades with hopes that this can be implemented within the next 2-3 years. A handout was distributed and it was asked that the Board members look this over and present any comments or questions at the next meeting. The floor was then open for those members present who had attended the seminar to share their experience with the others. Russ Heiple and J.J. Meier both stated that mainly what stuck out for them was the excitement generated in the technology teachers and administrators. J.J. also stated she was a little skeptical as it seems most of the business world tends to use PC's with Windows, and she was surprised at the compatibility offered. Mrs. Schowalter shared that the most impressive part of the program for her is how the integration would teach critical thinking skills and turn both students and teachers into life-long learners. Mr. Ulses also made the comment that with how "technology-savvy" students are right now, they actually have to "down-shift" to come to school and this would help change that. Also he stated something that stood out for him was that teachers would no longer be *teaching* but rather would be *empowering*. Mr. Drish stated he had actually been skeptical going in but had come out "a believer."

Questions/Comments were then entertained. Larry Rasmussen expressed excitement at the prospects of this from a businessman's perspective. Jana Schmitt stated that on a recent college visit to ISU she was surprised that in one of the computer labs they had 30 Mac computers and 6 PC's and while she was there all of the Macs were in use and none of the PC's were being used. Father Juhl shared that Loras College had gone to a one-to-one laptop program and stated what a great recruiting piece this could be. Father Kopacek did have questions as far as whether this could foster the sense of de-personalization. Father Secora questioned this as well. Mrs. Walz went on to explain how it actually works the opposite way as it fosters collaborative learning. The program would however involve teaching things such as ethical use policies and being a 'nice' digital citizen. Mrs. Walz wrapped up the discussion by stating CVCS has come a long way together and has come a long way in the recent future toward "stabilization" of the system. Now it is time to move beyond that and make CVCS a stand-out, future-looking school.

Action Items:

Finance Committee Approvals - Tom Drish

Mr. Drish asked for approval of the March financial report. Father Juhl made the motion they be accepted and Mark Russell gave the second. The approval of the finance report was granted.

2009-2010 CVCS Board of Education Meetings - Mrs. Cathy Walz

Mrs. Walz handed out the proposed meeting schedule for 2009-2010. From now on, all Board meetings will be held at Columbus Catholic High School. Father Juhl made the motion that the meeting schedule be accepted. Father Kopacek made the second.

Certified Staff Resignations - Mrs. Cathy Walz

Cathy Walz presented names of certified staff members who had turned in letters of resignation including Kathleen Osborn-Gerdes, St. Edward music teacher; Mabel Rempe, middle school band instructor; and Nicole Waytenek, St. Edward 1st grade teacher. Jana Schmitt made the motion to accept these resignations. Larry Rasmussen made the second. All resignations were accepted. A letter of resignation was also read from Steve Webber, 4th grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament. Russ Heiple made the motion to regretfully accept Mr. Webber's resignation. Father Juhl made the second. The resignation was accepted.

New Hires - Mrs. Cathy Walz

Mrs. Walz announced the hiring of Rebecca Sentman as music teacher at Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart. Jana Schmitt made a motion to accept the hire. Mark Russell made the second.

Mrs. Walz then announced the hiring of Dennis Streppe for the high school biology position. Larry Rasmussen made a motion to accept the hire. Suzy Luecke made the second. Both new hires were approved.

Old Business:

2008/2009 and 2009/2010 CVCS Enrollment Figures - Mrs. Cathy Walz

Mrs. Walz presented the printout of the to date enrollment. Currently for the 2009-2010 school year we are at 97.10% of this year's enrollment. She stated that system-wide there are only 6 slots open for the 3-day Pre-K program and 8 slots open for the 5-day Pre-K program.

Executive Session: At 6:30, Father Secora made the motion to move into executive session. Father Kopacek seconded the motion.

At 6:55, Larry Rasmussen made the motion to return to session. Mark Russell gave the second.

Adjournment:

Mark Russell made a motion to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Larry Rasmussen made the second. The motion was carried.

The next meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2009 at Columbus Catholic High School.
(Submitted by Jana Schmitt and J. J. Meier.)