

BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD MEETING

October 6th, 2021

4:00 PM

St. Pat's BCS/BCSF Conference Room

Minutes

OPENING – This meeting will be recorded

Opening Prayer	Lisa
Approval of Minutes	Minutes 9/15/21 – Minutes approved with corrections; Motion made by Jason, 2 nd by Alex
Our Why	Alex – Letter presented from BCCHS Seniors regarding homecoming and traditions that are important. Appreciated school administration working with students to ensure homecoming was great.
Public Comment Period	<p>Rick – Public comment transcript printed and on file at the BCS Office. Rick addressed communication issues with parents and the possible improvements we can make to be as transparent as possible. He confirmed that all agendas will be made public 48 hours ahead of the meetings going forward and all approved minutes will be sent to Kathy to post on the website for public access.</p> <p>Shaun reviewed how we have come to masking decisions and the data driven process we would use to rescind the mask mandate – including UHC indicators and data.</p>
Attendance	<p>Rick McCann, Joe Sylvester, Nate Haney, Fr. Steve Zabrocki, Jason Mueller, Shaun Harrington, Angel Turoski, Jenn Beckwith, Bobby Beers, Lisa Bruno, Donovan Kelly, Toby Maack, Alex McCreedy, Adrienne Reynolds, Brittney Souza, Stella Ziegler, Adam Liberty, Danielle Watson, Debra Hayes, and Amelia Bergum.</p> <p>See sign in sheet with transcript for parents who joined for public comment.</p>

COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Business Committee No Meeting Next meeting: 10/05/21 and 10/19/21, 4:00PM Boardroom/Virtual	<p>Rick/Joe and Shaun</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• June Financials: Cash is up – some due to PPP loans.• AR – tuition is coming down as Russ and Shaun have made successful efforts to collect accounts. There is still a lot to collect though at about \$200k. Hoping to reduce our collections as time permits.• AP is higher year over year, waiting to hear back on reasoning. May have been timing of bills and/or furlough from 2020.• Nate addressed the Foundation support and what that was originally built on.• Nate addressed the budget and went over attached reports. 22-23 will be considered on the whole this time, versus separating tuition and business needs. Draft budget has been requested for 11.2.21.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business committee recommended the approval of June financials – <i>Nate made the motion, Alex 2nd - before fully approved Adam wanted to address part of the financial summary.</i> • BACET and BCS Foundation are interchanged often, but they are not the same. BACET is an endowment within the Foundation. Adam clarified that BACET has given their full funding this year, but the Foundation has not, as previously discussed. • <i>Rick resumed the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.</i> <p><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19-20 Audit • PPP Loan forgiveness – This will be underway as the 24 weeks have ended. • Shaun has contacted the bank to discuss the high bank fees and they are conducting an audit of our credit card fees. We are awaiting a response from the bank representative. • Budget was showing \$30k over in Pandemic funds but this has been accounted for. ECE remodel was originally covered by Porter funds allocated by the Foundation, but was an allowable cost covered by Pandemic Funds. The Porter Funds were transferred back to the Foundation but not in the same year, so the difference shows on the current financials. • Intern job description has gone out and Shaun is working with the schools (MSUB, Rocky) to find an intern. <p><u>New business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Committee Request – Requesting \$55k to spend on the search for a new President for BCS. This will include hiring a headhunting firm and their expenses, as well as expenses to bring candidates in for face-to-face interviews. The hope is to spend as little as possible, up to \$55k. Motion was made by Nate to approve the budget and the outline for the process – and Jason 2nd, no one opposed. The contract with the headhunting firm is currently with the diocesan attorney.
<p>Strategic Enrollment</p> <p>Next Meeting: Pending –</p>	<p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment Update – Kathy unable to attend, Shaun gave report provided. • End of year 20-21 we had 905 total students • Large Senior class left. 83 students left; 65 students were returning as new seniors. It is now at 70 (21-22 Senior class). • Current status is 922 students in K-12. • 156 students at ECE • K-4 ended last year at 314, current status says 311 but Shaun will check into that.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-8 is very crowded in those grades. Anticipated 6th grade to grow to over 100 by time they reach high school. • BCCHS at 297, goal was 294.
<p>Education</p> <p>Next meeting: Pending</p>	<p>Danielle & Adrienne</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIR Update – ACE PIR Day in September went well. • Oct. 14th and 15th upcoming PIR days- Mandatory reporter training for <u>all staff</u> from OPI. • SFC working on WCEA Accreditation work. • Speech pathologist will be working with the staff at ECE. • Technology will be the focus at BCCHS. • There was a request that Oct 15th could be a flex/mental health day for staff. • Adrienne asked for a motion for the flex day – Shaun recommended to the board for approval on that flex date, clarifying we are over the number of required days needed for the school year. • Parent help is available now on the BCS website for parents who need help utilizing Schoology. • In Nov & Dec the ACE webinar series is upcoming – all teachers have access to materials and training.
<p>Technology</p> <p>Next meeting: Pending –</p>	<p>Toby/Bruce</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA
<p>Catholic Culture</p> <p>Next meeting: Pending</p>	<p>Nate</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nate requested that somebody take over this committee due to his other commitments on the board.
<p>Facilities Task Force</p> <p>Next meeting: Pending</p>	<p>Joe</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadwater Properties - School system owns 2 houses on Broadwater near the school. Facilities committee shared costs for projects (Elevator, Sacred Heart, Parking lot). The shortage for these projects is \$481k and the committee has proposed various ways to cover that shortage. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Donations from the Foundation 2. Loan against the rental houses 3. Dorothy Porter Funds 4. Sell the rentals – is the recommendation from the committee. • <i>Motion was made by Jason to approve selling the properties, Stella 2nd. None Opposed.</i>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Discussion and Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevator addition & Improvements to Central’s Campus
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FOUNDATION REPORT

President	<p>Adam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day of Giving – New concept in Fundraising world. • Thursday, October 28th will be the Day of Giving. • These events are usually project-based, teachers have submitted their projects and ideas. • Modern-day telethon idea, but web based. • Based on number of <u>donors</u>, there will be 1st 2nd and 3rd place prices at \$1k-\$2K-\$3k. • Wednesday, October 20th, BCS Foundation and Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana is hosting a workshop called “A Time for Everything”. This will feature guest speakers on Estate Planning. • Charitable giving season is underway, and the Foundation is currently understaffed and will be searching for a new Communications position. Jennifer has given her notice. • 2nd edition of Cornerstone Newsletter is underway – going out in November – end of year ask will be Nov. 20th. • Events and Christmas party coming up as well. • Audit field work Nov 9th. • Mayfair is underway as well. Chairs will be approved at next Foundation board meeting, barring no issues.
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SCHOOL REPORTS

Billings Central Catholic	Shel –
Saint Francis Catholic	<p>Deb and Jim – Wrapping up MAP testing, closes this Friday. Scores are looking great.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reynolds family treated the staff to coffee recently. • Staff morale is being worked on – Bingo board raffle going on. Ideas include - Watching another teacher do a lesson, teach something outside, buy treats for another class, etc. • Halloween treats “You’ve been Booed” encouraging to meet others. • Sensory path project for students who need that for their sensory issues, planning is underway. • Larry Diedrich – Head Janitor – will be retiring end of 21-22.
Early Childhood Center	Michelle –
President	<p>Shaun</p> <p><u>Final Approval Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity and Extra-curricular recommendations – Jenn Beckwith • Jenn is willing to chair a Medical Advisory portion of a COVID committee but does not wish to chair a full committee due to her lack of experience. • Jenn collected information on Extra curriculars and feedback. Shel advised her there are only 3 indoor activities through December.

- Instructional time and Extra Curricular time are separate – based on dress code and other policies. Being able to enforce a mask policy at extra curriculums would be very difficult and Shel even thought police presence may be necessary.
- Jenn stated if they vote on mask mandates for activities, those should be willing to help enforce it.
- Lists of questions were sent to Shel, Jim, and Mike. Mike responded in like with Shel, but Jim did not respond, per Jenn.
- Jenn has drafted a survey, if wanting to move forward with that idea. Shel was hesitant to move forward with a survey since we didn't survey parents about the school mask requirement and may look like we value sports over education.
- The bottom line seems to be that it comes down to enforcement.
- Debate took place around the hypocrisy of the rules of masking during school but not at activities. Points were made that school is not a choice but attending activities are and the point was made that going to our school or any school is a choice as to where they are educated.
- Bobby suggested limiting attendance at events instead of mandating masks, first.
- Lisa asked if anyone would want to chair a committee beyond what Jenn can/wants to do.
- Questions were posed about what the committee would do – Jenn referenced the email she sent out.
- Discussion will be tabled until next meeting. Board members were encouraged to come with cohesive thoughts.

Discussion and Updates

- UHC Data Charts: Riverstone is understaffed and can only enter so many cases per day. Not all reported cases are entered in a day so the daily count can be off. Data is not always current. RiverStone is receiving about 160-200 cases are coming in per day – they are trying to prioritize the 0-19 group since that affects schools regularly and immediately. Data is hard to track because there is no way to know how many “home tests” are positive and not reported. Shaun shared the UHC data – all 4 indicators are still trending RED. Discussion was held around the data presented and trends in 0-19 age range. Parents expressed questions and opinions. Jenn read findings on masking and studies around covid and masking students. Alex reminded everyone that the decisions made are based on all students and the best intentions are meant by the board, not looking to punish, or hurt anyone's family. 0–19-year old's currently makes up 19% of all positive cases in Yellowstone County. This percentage is trending down over the last 4 weeks.

	<p>Vaccination reports were shared – 53% of the county is currently fully vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCS Data: ECE: 1 student out as close contact and 1 awaiting a test SFC – 5 students identified as close contacts to a student in K-4, but all 5 tested negative. 1 positive case in the school. 12 students in K-4 identified as close contacts from outside contact, all negative. 5-8th 1 student and 1 staff positive. 1 staff out as close contact. 3 students identified as close contacts due to outside exposure, 2 students awaiting tests. BCCHS – 1 staff positive, 4 students positive, 3 staff close contacts and 5 students close contacts. 1 Foundation staff out as positive. ECE has 15-20 students absent/day due to illness, but not everyone is testing for covid. • Possible Quarantine Guidelines change – Quarantine guidance from public health will be the basis for our quarantine practices. • We are looking at a change in how we notify close contacts but that will come back to the board. • ELC Grant – Shaun applied, it was due 9/30/21, but it was reopened until 12/30/21 so Shaun is not sure what that means for the funding yet. This will allow for testing, PPE, etc. Possibly increasing nursing services. • Plans have to be in place for how the money will be spent, after drafting plans, Shaun requested \$36k. • Angel - Board Training – Will address at next meeting • <i>Motion to move to Executive Session by Rick, 2nd by Alex</i>
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UPCOMING DATES:

Next School Board Meeting:

October 20th, 2021 @ St. Pat's/Virtual – 4:00

Executive Session:

Yes