



## President's Report – September 2023

### **Beginning of Year Board Survey**

Please complete the beginning of year board survey at your earliest convenience prior to 9/29/23. The survey helps gather data about our current performance, areas of improvement, and specific topics for further development. The survey can be accessed at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/uKrRQzYr6Cr2yCxe7>

### **Opening the Doors**

All schools got off to a great start this year.

- We began the year with a staff event at a Billings Mustangs game, with a pregame BBQ. Over 70 staff and spouses attended the event, which received very positive feedback from the staff and built excitement for the opening week PIR activities.
- Sincere thanks to Danielle Watson for the beginning of year PIR day plans. We have solicited feedback from all staff as to how those days can be improved in the coming years as well.
- Thanks also to Joanna Brailer for having all iPads ready for distribution on day 1. We did encounter several network issues at the high school, and she has already identified ways to prevent that in the future and the need for replacement of some network infrastructure to better support the activity within BCCHS.
- Open houses are completed at all facilities, and we are settling into the year on each campus.
- We have tremendous administrators that are well-versed in the opening of the buildings. They have done a tremendous job of getting everything ready, preparing their staff, and welcoming students back this year.
- Running on Faith and the carnival raised over \$4,000 for clubs and activities to support their operation this year. Kathy Harris did an excellent job coordinating this event and we could not have pulled it off with the support of Shel Hanser, who returned to lend his expertise as well. Over 231 runners participated in the race while many more came to partake in the carnival.

### **Budget Updates**

For a complete synopsis of budget expectations, please review the 23-24 Budget Updates document.

- Total enrollment in K-12 slightly under expectations – 936 enrolled, 959 expected – 23 students below what we predicted.
- Insurance rates increased significantly for all properties and all student accident plans
- As a result of negotiated contracts in other areas and some expected savings on salaries and benefits due to staffing changes and benefits elections, the outlook for the system is still positive.

### **Softball Field**

- Several donors came forward with a desire to work with Rocky to update Urbaska field on the Rocky campus to create a “home field” for the BCCHS softball program. Both Adam and I have met with several of the donors and with Rocky president Bob Wilmoth to explore this partnership. We have asked for scheduling priority for the next 5-10 years, signage on the facility, and a 0-cost lease agreement for both the softball field and for our lease of the football stadium. The expectation is that Rocky will be responsible for all upkeep, utility and



maintenance costs, and outside use of the facility. We are working through the final steps now with the hope of having the field ready for spring 2024.

### **Annual Report**

- The Annual Report was published and distributed to the community several weeks ago with information on the performance of our schools during the 2022-23 school year. The report contained information covering all aspects of the school program alongside key information about the BCS Foundation. It was critical to both BCS and BCSF to put out a joint publication to present the unified vision and efforts of the two organizations. We plan to continue with this approach in the coming years. I would appreciate feedback on the timing of the report – being released in early September – and if you have suggestions, questions, or ideas for improvement.

### **Safety & Student Reporting Updates**

- Working alongside the counseling department, we are expecting an internal Crisis Response Plan for all staff within our schools in the coming weeks. We have set up dedicated reporting email addresses to unify the counseling team's response across buildings and have changed the way we view the counseling department from individuals at their specific schools, to a team across all buildings. They are meeting as a group at least every other week to review students, coordinate efforts, and craft curricula. The counseling staff and Nolan and I will attend a crisis response training in early October and the Counseling team is researching various programs to bring to our schools. You can expect to see one such program on Day of Giving as they seek financial support for the initial purchase and implementation.

### **ERC Follow-Up**

- Please see Shanny's response from the diocese to my question about if things have changed in regard to our ability to apply for the ERC on our own:
  - *Andrew, NO – we can not apply for this. We are a Corp Sole and if we do not qualify all together then we do not qualify at all. We are still trying to work on being able to apply, but everything I have done has not qualified. I am waiting for one more phone call, but I don't think it will work.*

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### **Round Table & Turn the Table**

Please consider attending the events below to support our Catholic Schools and for a great evening!

Wednesday, 9/27 – Round Table (Men's Social Event)

Wednesday, 10/25 – Turn the Table (Women's Social Event)