

**St. Joseph Catholic Academy**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 17, 2021**

**Present:** Kyle Vitkus, Beth Bahr, Peter Speca, Mike Bain, Susie Harron (arrived late), Eric Kenesie, Jeanne Kessler, Paul Krumrie, Father Robert McDermott, Paul Marik, John Moyer, Deacon Patrick Moynihan, Peter Speca, Bruce Varick

**Excused:** Teresa LaMacchia, Father Todd Belardi, Christine Genthner, Father Roman Stikel

Minutes drafted by Ms. Bahr.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Deacon Moynihan led the group in prayer.

Mr. Speca read a letter to the group that he wrote regarding the Board Chair and the overall Board's performance during an exceptionally challenging year. He noted that while this was unprecedented times due to the pandemic and social unrest, the Board Chair was instrumental in ensuring that the school remained open and that the facilities and the children were kept safe. This ultimately resulted in more in-person learning days than other schools in Kenosha and nearly the highest in-person days in the State with minimal impacts of COVID-19. In addition, he noted the Board Chair's role in staying the course with the President and Principal searches and the support of the Chair of the Search Committee in getting us to the right place for SJCA for the future. He noted the transparency through that process. None of this would have been possible without the Board Chair's dedication to the process and to the school, even while all officers of the Board were publically asked to resign. Mr. Speca also noted the involvement of Dr. Thomas Ambro and Laurie McKeon as key in the successful launch of SJCA. He thanked them for their many years of dedicated service. Mr. Speca also offered his thanks to Mr. Vitkus for his service during an exceptionally difficult year.

Dana Tehako-Esser addressed the Board and noted that she was still looking for the board minutes from November 2020 to present. She noted that nothing was posted on the website as of just prior to the Board meeting this evening. It was noted that Kerry Gapinski does post these, but Deacon Moynihan would look into why this wasn't done and would make sure that they would be posted as requested. Ms. Tehako-Esser noted that she and other parents are looking for more transparency from the Board. Deacon Moynihan noted her comments.

A motion was made by Peter Speca and seconded by Jeanne Kessler to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

It was reported that the Board of Counselors meeting was held virtually. Several members of SJCA attended the session. There was one minor item raised regarding the curriculum for religion courses which is being addressed. No other questions were raised and overall the meeting went well. Mr. Varick also confirmed that the meeting went well from the Archdiocese

perspective. Deacon Moynihan noted that they also honored Mr. Freund's many years of service during the meeting.

Mr. Specca provided a board development update. It was noted that Ms. Bahr would be willing to serve as Chairperson, Ms. LaMacchia would be willing to serve as Secretary, and Mr. Vitkus would be willing to serve as Past Chair. In addition, Mr. Specca noted that he has reached out to Mr. Portilia regarding his possible service as Treasurer, but he is conflicted out because of his involvement with the Endowment Board. It was noted that all Board Members may be extended for one year and we may want to consider holding off on adding any new members at this time; however, Mr. Varick noted that an extension of one year was still pending approval by the Archbishop. In addition, it was noted that the current Board may be dissolved at that time and a new combined Board may be established under the Kenosha Area Catholic Schools Alliance.

Mr. Kenesie objected and stated that this would result in a board member extending beyond a 6-year term which would be in opposition to the bi-laws. He noted that he felt new blood needed to be placed onto the Board and that the same families have continued to serve for multiple terms. He also objected to the placement of the aforementioned individuals into these roles without a proper election process. Mr. Specca confirmed that these individuals were asked if they were willing to serve. This was not considered a formal appointment to these roles. He noted this will ultimately be voted upon at the annual meeting of the Board. Deacon Moynihan asked that any further discussion on the topic be tabled until the bi-laws are reviewed and a definitive direction is given by the Archbishop on this matter. He anticipates further discussion on this topic at the June meeting.

Mr. Krumrie shared that he would be willing to serve as Treasurer if nominated. Mr. Specca noted his willingness to serve.

Anna Silenzi asked to speak to the group. She shared that while parents had reached out to the Board at two previous meetings that the Board did not provide any thoughtful responses to them during those meetings. She noted her concern about keeping Mr. Vitkus on the Board and suggested that new blood be brought onto the Board at the next Annual Meeting.

No additional comments or questions were raised during the open forum.

The open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.