



In-Person Attendance: Tom Dunlap, Martin Linder, Stacey Dvorak, Andrew Welfle

Virtual Attendance: Emily Riley, Kathy Molek, Fr. Anthony Recker, Erin Cannon, Ian Miller, and Sue Riley

Excused: Rod Thimke, Jen Collins

The *Special Session* of the Norwalk Catholic Governing Board was called to order at 5:06 PM by Chair Emily Riley, with Tuition and the State Budget change of funding to be the only matter to be discussed.

1. Opening Prayer - Martin Linder
2. Board Chair Emily Riley welcomed the three new board members to the Governing Board - Stacey Dvorak, Ian Miller & Erin Cannon
3. President Martin Linder provided an overview of the State of Ohio's new budget pertaining to schools that allows for some type of financial assistance to all income levels.
 - a. According to statements from Governor DeWine some 85% of all Ohioians fall within the 450% poverty level.
 - i. Mr. Linder explained what this equates to financially for the school with the number of families currently received EdChoice, and how it could potentially impact us if this money is left unused (per student)
 - ii. President Linder then had a powerpoint presentation depicting the different levels in the state budget and where we fell within those levels.
 - b. One of the fears with the changing to this new system was the states abilities to get the monies distributed to the schools. It could potentially become a cash flow issue for our school. President Linder advised that he has thought of these issues and has potential ways to navigate the issue should it become a problem.
 - c. President Linder reported the Diocesan support of this new budget bill, and questioned whether Fr. Recker also supports it. All were in agreement.
 - d. Mrs. Riley advised that vetting our students would still be an important part of the process, accepting students that are aligned to our culture and what we provide as a school first and foremost.
4. Mr. Linder advised that he would like the blessings of the Board to move forward, but he wanted the Board to take time to digest the information. He advised that a response/vote to happen by the end of the week would be helpful to alleviate any confusion with the State reporting when parents applied.
 - a. It was noted that there are some issues with the ODE website (out of the school's control).
 - b. Mrs. Riley advised she could set up an email vote so Board members could vote as they came to a determination, NLT Friday. However, several members expressed interest in an immediate vote. A quorum was present. Motion was made by Tom Dunlap and seconded by Stacey Dvorak to

Building on the legacy of our parishes, families, and alumni, the mission of Norwalk Catholic is to guide students to cultivate a personal relationship with Christ rooted in the Catholic tradition and to educate students in a rigorous academic environment to serve and lead in the global community.

update reported tuition numbers through the state's website. Tuition will be set at \$6165.00 for Elementary and \$8307.00 for High School to the state's application form. President Linder advised he would have it in shortly after the meeting. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Riley contacted the 2 absent Board members to notify them of the discussion and vote, and accept feedback.

5. Mrs. Riley advised the next meeting would be August 16th at 6:00pm in the new Learning Commons.
6. Mrs. Riley adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.

Other notes on this EdChoice discussion included:

- Every level of income receives some type of scholarship from the state, but families must apply through the state's site and with the school (separate but aligned processes)
- The income verification piece only happens one time (not annually)
- We currently have 150 students utilizing EdChoice
- The budget bill states that this program should stay in place for 14 years at the minimum (current incoming Kindergartners until the graduate)
- Our cash flow will be affected at the onset; we have to be patient to see how this works out before making any long-term decisions on utilization of funds
- The Diocese is supporting the bill and providing some guidance to school, including the need for us to review our tuition model/structure
- The Board discussed "Catholic vs Non-Catholic" rates at length; need to look at this as faith evangelization if we move to one fee

Next Board Meeting: August 16, 2023 in the new Learning Commons