

Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Library – Lourdes School

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Melchert called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- BOE members present: Tom Melchert, David Reilly, Sandra Adamson, Rev. Jason Crossen, Tyler Edwards, Brian Nikulski
- BOE Members Absent: Tom Quinn, Kurt Tressel
- Other attendees: Jennifer Alongi, Sheryl Lackey, Rev. John Lamansky, Gloria Mesick, Anne Camarena, Dan Colbrese, Brett Adams
- Guests: Lyle and Lindsay Andersen as well as their son, Charles (Charlie)

2. Opening Prayer

- Father Crossen opened the meeting and led the Board Members and guests in prayer.

3. Introduction of Guests

- Prior to the introduction of guests, President Tom Melchert asked the Board Members as well as other attendees to introduce themselves to the guests.
- Lyle and Lindsay Andersen and their son, Charlie were guests.

4. Approval of Agenda

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 8/17/2021 meeting. Motion made by Sandra Adamson to approve the agenda as written. There was a second by Dave Reilly.

5. Approval of Minutes

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting.
- Sheryl Lackey reported that she was in attendance at the June meeting and asked that it be reflected in the minutes.
- Motion made by Brian Nikulski to approve the June Board minutes with the correction. There was a second by Sandra Adamson.

6. Open Forum

- Lyle and Lindsay Andersen addressed the Board asking for financial assistance/state funded tuition for enrolling their son, Charles, in state-funded PreK program for 4-year olds even though he would be eligible for kindergarten. Mr. Andersen would like the Board to help interpret the Iowa Code. Mr. Andersen, who spoke for his family, feels that the Iowa Code interpretation is vague in regard to age requirement. He explained that their son will be 5 years of age on the 13th of September. Mr. Andersen has reached out to the Department of Education but has not heard back from them, to date. Ms. Alongi mentioned Lourdes does not make the decision on who qualifies for state funded tuition. As a non-public school we can place a student according to their readiness and not because of their birthdate. Traditionally, 5-year old students pay tuition in the 4-year old PreK program. She will reach out to the Director of Special Services at Bettendorf Community School District to review the case. He would need to contact the state to ask for an exception.

7. Old Business

- N/A

8. New Business

- a. Board Nominees
 1. Chelsea Bush
 2. Teresa Bechen
- The Board reviewed the application/nomination forms for Chelsea Bush and Teresa Bechen for the open seats on Lourdes School Board. The Board voted and approved Chelsea and Teresa to the BOE.
- There was discussion regarding changing the number of Board members from 11 to 9. Father Crossen mentioned that there would need to be an amendment to the Constitution. If the Constitution is not amended, there will be 2 more open seats. Dave Reilly reminded the Board that we need to follow the Policy in place when posting for open seats on the Board.

9. Father Jason Crossen

- Father Crossen distributed a document that included the next steps for Vision for the Catholic Church in Bettendorf that was provided to St. John Vianney.
- Meitler Report completed & presented to Bishop in November 2020.
- Due to the retirement of Father Vrba (St. John Vianney) and appointment of new pastor, Father Rich Adam, it will take time for Father Rich to acclimate.
- The Bishop's letter from March 20-21 states that for the immediate future, he supports both parishes working together toward the eventual relocation of Lourdes Parish & School.
- The Bishop agreed to the following steps:
 1. Form a shared collaboration ministry committee which would consist of people from both parishes looking where we are already collaborating and where we can collaborate in the future, (i.e. Called & Gifted, CEW, school etc.)
 2. Project Committee
 - a) Hire a new position shared by both parishes that would work at creating a master plan, hiring an architect, continue addressing the feasibility of the project and manage the capital campaign to further the ends of relocating and building a new church, religious education center/school.
 - b) 25 acres will be available to us and is located on the northeast corner of Middle Road and Forest Grove Road.
- There is a Diocesan Capital Campaign in the works for retired priests. Funds provide medical insurance and a livable stipend for retired priests that serve under the Bishop.

10. Principal Report (See Full Report)

- Since Ms. Alongi submitted her report, there was another student who enrolled (kindergarten)
- Looking forward to the mini retreat planned for 8/18/2021. There should be 60 attendees. Jennifer, Brett and Emily have done a lot of planning.
- Due to an opening at a higher-grade level, Mrs. Camarena is moving from a 1st grade teacher position to a 3rd grade teacher position for the 2021-22 school year.
- Ms. Alongi mentioned that calls continue to come in from parents wishing to enroll their students at Lourdes for the upcoming school year.

11. Business Manager's Report (See Full Report)

- Sheryl highlighted some specific aspects of her report.
- Last fiscal year-end deficit was \$406,000. Lower than budgeted deficit of \$513,000. There is a surplus for July of \$120,000 which is not unusual because a lot of annual tuition comes in.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding the 4-year old PreK program and the differences between the qualified and unqualified student as far as reimbursement for the program from the state. It was mentioned that St. John Vianney does not take unqualified

students – so they receive 100% state funding. At this time, Lourdes policy is to take unqualified students. Lourdes received 89% state funding for the 2020-21 school year.

- Brian Nikulski questioned the account balance of \$85,000 for Home and School. Sheryl indicated that Starry Night and Home & School monies are consolidated.

12. Special Interest Group Reports:

a. **Boosters/AD Report (See Full Report)**

- Athletic Apparel is available and can be purchased at the Spirit Wear website later in September.
- Girls' basketball will start soon. There will be a 6th grade team and an 8th grade team.
- Athletic events will follow the COVID policies in place.
- Girls' volleyball will start in the last two weeks of October.
- Discussion about athletes playing up to the next grade level. Dan will contact Lynn Devaney.

b. **Home & School Association (See Full Report)**

c. **Teacher Representative** - No Report

- Teachers have been working in their classrooms.
- All staff have been getting ready for the “Unpack Your Backpack” event.
- Diocese Live Retreat was held 8/17/2021. Mike Patin was the motivational speaker. It was very good.
- Knights of Columbus assisted with setting up furniture, painting, and moving things around – getting ready for the school year.

d. **Parish Council Report** - (No Report)

13. Religious Education Reports:

a. **Faith Formation & Evangelization Brett Adams (See Full Report)**

- Looking ahead at ministry, how do we continue to grow and sustain faith building experiences together?
- There is an initiative being considered called “Faith & Fellowship Sunday.” The purpose of this opportunity is to engage the entire parish family in faith at the same time and at the same place. The goal is to intentionally rebuild and strengthen our parish community and build bridges between the school and the church. Three basic tenets of the experience are teaching, witness, and fellowship.
- There was a survey sent to parishioners. There were 99 responses. 58% responded favorably to pursue the Faith & Fellowship Sunday. It was also noted that 65% of parishioners attend either 8:30 or 10:30 mass.
- Held middle school events over the summer.
- NCYC planning is occurring.
- The Youth Ministry will consider participating in the “Unpack the Backpack” event.

14. Board Committee Reports:

a. **Finance (No Report)**

b. **Policy & Procedure (No Report)**

c. **Public Relations/Marketing**

- 1st Day of School video & events
- October 1st Trivia Night

d. **St John Vianney Update (No Report)**

e. Executive – N/A

15. Closing Prayer:

- Father Crossen led us in a closing prayer.

16. Adjourn Regular Session:

- Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

17. Closed Session Not Needed:

18. Adjourn:

BOE Meeting Dates. Time for all meetings is 6:00 p.m. and is held in the school library.

August 17, 2021

September 21, 2021

October 12, 2021

November 16, 2021

December 14, 2021

January 18, 2022

February 15, 2022

March 29, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 17, 2022

June 21, 2022