

Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes School Library
Minutes

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Melchert called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- BOE Members Present: Tom Melchert, Sandra Adamson, Kurt Tressel, Chelsea Bush, Teresa Bechen
- BOE Members Absent: Father Crossen, Tyler Edwards, Brian Nikulski, Tom Quinn, Dave Reilly
- Other Attendees: Jennifer Alongi, Rev. John Lamansky, Gloria Mesick, Anne Camarena, Dan Colbrese, Brett Adams
- Guest: Lynne Devaney, Superintendent of Schools

2. Opening Prayer

- Rev. Lamansky opened the meeting and led the Board members, other attendees and guest in prayer.

3. Introduction of Guests

- President Melchert introduced Superintendent of Schools, Lynne Devaney.

4. Approval of Agenda

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 10/12/2021 meeting. Motion was made by Kurt Tressel to approve the agenda as written/Second by Sandra Adamson. Approved.

5. Approval of Minutes

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2021 BOE meeting. Kurt Tressel made a motion to approve the minutes as written/Second by Teresa Bechen. Approved.

6. Open Forum

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- President Melchert updated the BOE on committee assignments.
 - a) Kurt Tressel – Policy
 - b) Dave Reilly – Finance
 - c) Tyler Edwards – Marketing
 - d) Chelsea Bush – SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee)
 - e) Parish Council – Teresa Bechen (Teresa will confirm with President Melchert)
 - f) Tom Quinn -
 - g) Brian Nikulski –
- Superintendent, Lynne Devaney came to the OLOL BOE meeting because she is new in her position. She stated that she plans to visit all 15 schools and to meet and introduce herself to the Boards of Education within the Diocese. She shared her teaching background with the BOE.

Lynne shared some takeaways from her previous teaching experiences. She said “the true devotion, real action in this world is with early childhood, Pre-K and even younger. If we don’t do education right in the early years, we mess them up for high school.”

There are sometimes difficult situations that occur and being in a parochial school strengthened her belief and the importance of the work that is done and how families find each other. How families lean on each other and how they lean on teachers, principals, pastors to get through those difficult situations.

We should always work with humility & kindness.

Superintendent, Devaney highlighted specific main points in her presentation.

- a) Board Action
- b) Vision for Catholic Schools
 - i) Through sacrifice and work teachers need to educate kids to their fullest ability through the lens of a Catholic world view.
 - ii) This is what makes Catholic education different from a public school.
 - iii) We need to make our parishes stronger as a result of what we do in our schools.
- c) Consolidation of Catholic Schools/Division of Responsibilities
 - i) Bishop
 - ii) Superintendent of Schools
 - iii) Diocesan Board of Education
 - iv) Parish Board of Education
 - v) Principal, President or Head of School
- d) Certification for the State of Iowa
 - i) We need to be sure we are in alignment with the Code of Iowa in terms of educational needs. We also have Canon Law that we need to follow.
- e) Importance of Confidentiality
- f) Maintenance & Unity
 - i) Supports consolidation of schools and movement towards efficiency and unity.
- g) Complaints & Concerns
 - i) Chain of Command: Teacher/Coach > Principal/Athletic Director > Board of Education
- h) Hiring: Principal
 - i) All candidates will be pre-screened by the office of the Superintendent of Schools prior to the BOE taking hiring action.
- i) Immoral Conduct
 - i) The goal is to approach the individual and to seek reconciliation in the Catholic Church.
- j) Questions
 - i) Principal, President, Head of School: President Melchert asked for an explanation of roles.
 - ii) Discussion regarding development of Diocesan Board of Education.

9. Father Jason Crossen – No Report

10. Principal Report – Jennifer Alongi (See Full Report)

- Balance of Title II money a little over \$7,000 and title IV money \$3,800. Considerations will be given on how to spend that money. Title II money could be spent on sending a teacher to NCEA. Title IV money could be spent on social/emotional needs, World Language Instruction are just a few examples on what the monies can be spent on.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are being scheduled for K-8 students. Parents have the option to choose zoom or in-person.
- Still have not filled the Enrichment position. Hope to have someone in place by January, 2022.
- SIAC position will be filled by Chelsea Bush.

11. Business Manager’s Report - Sheryl Lackey (No Report)

12. Special Interest Group Reports:

a. Boosters/AD Report – Dan Colbrese (See Full Report)

- i. Having great difficulty getting officials for games. Prefer to have prior officiate training. Must be at least 18 years of age.
- ii. Discussion regarding mandating parents of athletes to volunteer. Need help with home games. Specifically, we need more help with admissions, scoreboard, and concession stand. Asking for assistance from local schools through service-learning. All volunteers must view the on-line

training video (Virtus) in advance. Having to take Virtus training may be a barrier preventing some parents from volunteering.

b. Home & School Association – Jen Foley (No Report)

c. Teacher Representative – Anne Camarena / Gloria Mesick (See Full Report)

- i. Teachers and kids really love the FOSS Kits! Doing hands-on projects is fun!
- ii. 2nd Grade working toward getting 1st Reconciliation/1st Communion
- iii. 3rd Grade working on Saint project for All Saints Day.
- iv. Anne Camarena is thankful that the environment has improved.
- v.

d. Parish Council Report – Kurt Tressel (No Report)

e. Assumption Report - None

13. Religious Education Reports:

a. Director of Faith Formation – Brett Adams (See Full Report)

- i. Faith & Fellowship Sundays have launched and have been well attended thus far. They happen most Sundays throughout the school year from 9:00-10:15 a.m. Each week alternates between “Fellowship Sundays,” which are intended for the whole family to experience together, and “Grow Group” Sundays, where kids of various ages and adults engage in faith-based learning at their own level. On Fellowship Sundays, families can enjoy food and fellowship which is then followed by some faith-based content presented to the whole group, which is also being live-streamed to the FB page for those not able to attend. On the alternate “Grow Group” Sundays, separate classes are held for K-8 religious education, high school confirmation and adult faith formation, including those preparing to become Catholic through RCIA.
- ii. Another breakfast is planned for Sunday, October 17th. The NCYC students will be serving. Free-will donations/proceeds will help defray some of the cost for those students attending NCYC.
- iii. Confirmation enrollment is up.
- iv. Middle School Ministry – have had a couple of youth nights. Enrollment is up (20 students at each) which may be in due part because Brett is spending more time in the school this year building relationships.

14. Board Committee Reports:

a. Finance – Sheryl Lackey (No Report)

b. Policy & Procedure – Kurt Tressel

- i. Kurt will send out a review schedule prior to the next BOE meeting scheduled for October. There are 5 policies in need of review. Hope to be done with the review of the 400 series in December. 3 were reviewed.
Policy 402 – No changes. Motion to approve Policy 402 as written by Sandra Adamson/Second by Chelsea Bush. Policy 402 is approved and will be adopted.
Policy 403 – Grammatical change. Motion to approve Policy 403 with grammatical correction by Chelsea Bush/Second by Sandra Adamson. Policy 403 is approved and will be adopted.
Policy 412A. Minor changes. Motion to approve Policy 412A with the amendment by Chelsea Bush/Second by Teresa Bechen. Policy 412A is approved and will be adopted as discussed.
- ii In November the BOE will look at Policies 414A & 461 and will be posted to the shared Google drive for review.

c. Public Relations / Marketing – Tyler Edwards (No Report)

d. St John Vianney Update - Tom Melchert

f. Executive – Tom Melchert (No Report)

15. Closing Prayer

- i. Father Lamansky led the BOE and other attendees in a closing prayer.

16. Adjourn Regular Session

- i. Motion by Dan Colbrese to adjourn/Second by Chelsea. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

17. Closed Session

18. Adjourn

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

- ✓ **Tuesday, August 17, 2021**
- ✓ **Tuesday, September 21, 2021**
- ✓ **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**
- Tuesday, November 16, 2021**
- Tuesday, December 14, 2021**
- Tuesday, January 18, 2022**
- Tuesday, February 15, 2022**
- Tuesday, March 29, 2022**
- Tuesday, April 19, 2022**
- Tuesday, May 17, 2022**
- Tuesday, June 21, 2022**