

Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes School Library
Minutes

1. Call to Order

- President Tom Melchert called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.
- BOE Members Present: Tom Melchert, Sandra Adamson, Kurt Tressel, Chelsea Bush, Theresa Bechen, Father Crossen, Tyler Edwards, Tom Quinn, Dave Reilly
- BOE Members Absent: Brian Nikulski
- Other Attendees: Jennifer Alongi, Gloria Mesick, Jen Foley, Sheryl Lackey
- Guest: Dr. José Torres

2. Opening Prayer

- Father Crossen opened the meeting and led the Board members, other attendees and guest in prayer.

3. Introduction of Guests

- President Melchert introduced and welcomed Dr. José Torres. He and his wife have 3 children (Kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade) enrolled at Lourdes. Dr. Torres's wife is a morning Kindergarten Aide at Lourdes.

4. Approval of Agenda

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 11/16/2021 meeting. Motion was made by Dave Reilly to approve the agenda as written/Second by Kurt Tressel. Approved.

5. Approval of Minutes

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/12/2021 BOE meeting. Kurt Tressel made a motion to approve the minutes as written/Second by Tyler Edwards. Approved.

6. Open Forum

7. Old Business

- Theresa Bechen has agreed to be the Parish Council Rep.

8. New Business

9. Father Jason Crossen –

- SCHOOL VENTILATION
 - a) Ventilation (hot/cold) issues continue to be a concern at the school. Father thanked teachers, staff for their patience during this difficult time.
- REDISCOVERING SUNDAY SURVEY
 - a) Survey was distributed to all parishes by the Diocese in July, 2021.
 - b) A total of 5,000 people responded (258 responses were from Lourdes).
 - c) 48% of parishioners stated they would recommend Lourdes parish.
 - d) Father asked Tom Quinn to provide report to BOE.
- SYNOD
 - a) The Holy Father started a SYNOD on Synodality. He would like a pulse of the whole church across the whole world which encompasses all peoples and to prayerfully discern what is the Holy Spirit asking us to do. Small group meetings/discussions will be held and will be coordinated by the Diocese. There will be a 10-page report in the spring which the Diocese will submit to Rome. The Bishops will meet in Rome and an outcome will be available in 2023. If you wish to know more about this, visit the Diocesan website davenportdiocese.org

- SCOTT COUNTY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
 - a) Pastors of Catholic schools are discussing how lease agreements will work. Once the system is regionalized, the system will be using our buildings. How does it all play out (i.e. authority, payment etc.)? Meetings continue.
- DIOCESAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – CAMPAIGN CALLED UPON THIS ROCK
 - a) Purpose is to strengthen 1) retirement 2) healthcare for priests, 3) funding for seminarians and 4) 20% parish funding. Campaign could begin as early as fall of 2022.
- BETTENDORF STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE
 - a) Both Lourdes & St. John Vianney have 4 committee members including a priest from each parish. There will be a meeting on November 30th to discuss the hiring of a project director to lead the group and come up with a master plan on building a new school and moving the church.
 - b) Principal Alongi would like to see parents from St. John Vianney who have children enrolled at Lourdes be represented on their parish council. It would be beneficial to have that support and they could speak well to why Catholic education is important.

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

- ENROLLMENT
 - a) Enrollment is up 7 students from this time last year (November of 2020).
- HUNGER DRIVE
 - a) Students set a record for this year’s Student Hunger Drive (3,861 cans). All the Catholic schools in grades K-8 compete to see who can collect the most cans and give them to Assumption. She believes Lourdes school has held the trophy for at least the last 10 years. She thanked families for their donations/generosity.
- COVID
 - a) COVID cases have increased. Vaccines are now available for those children ages 5 and up. Jennifer mentioned that the school may be able to return to some of the pre-pandemic procedures such as lunch and mass schedules – when it is safe to do so. There will be more discussion at the upcoming Principal’s meeting.
- MITTEN TREE
 - a) Lourdes School is collecting mittens, coats, hats and scarves. Please donate gently used or new items to the school office by November 19th. 3RD graders are in charge of this program.
- CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE
 - a) Tentatively planning on a live Christmas performance this year with safety measures in place. A final decision will be made closer to that day.
- SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) Goals
 - a) Strengthen the connection between the parish and the school.
 - b) Increase kindergarten enrollment.
 - c) Increase retention of students who stay at Lourdes through 8th grade.
 - i) Discussion regarding Lourdes being a viable choice even for students matriculating to public high school rather than to Assumption.
 - ii) Jennifer will have her secretary contact Bettendorf High School and Pleasant Valley to ask that Lourdes students (grade 8) preferring to enroll in 9th grade public school be invited to their annual 9th grade orientation.
 - iii) Discussion that visits to public schools should be considered an excused absence.

11. Business Manager’s Report - Sheryl Lackey (See Report)

- i) Month of October **-\$53,000** for the school. YTD **-\$153,000**. Part of that deficit is due to having to post deferred revenue and we had not received the money for 4-year old students.
- ii) Currently Lourdes offers quarterly, monthly, semester and annual billing. Sheryl would like to discontinue quarterly billing and just bill monthly or annually next fiscal year.
- iii) There is money left over from uniforms (\$1,700). Sheryl will talk to Dan about using the funds.

- iv) Discussion regarding tuition income and future cost.
- v) Monies left in Starry Night that are available after smartboard purchase is \$4,700.
- vi) Hometown Heating may be installing actuators in two classrooms to help regulate the temperatures. Discussion on using excess Starry funds to help cover the cost.

12. Special Interest Group Reports:

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

b. Home & School Association – Jen Foley (See Full Report)

- i. Trunk or Treat was a huge success.
- ii. Home & School will do a better job promoting /advertising this event in the future. Parishioners with children of all ages are welcome to attend as it is a parish event.
- iii. St. Nick’s Shop is a go this year.
- iv. Looking at ways to spend Starry Night money.
- v. Scrip purchases are down. Looking at creative ways to fundraise.

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

- i. Middle School – Mock Trial to be held this Friday, November 19th at St. Ambrose University.
- ii. 2nd grade is working on 1st reconciliation.
- iii. All Saints Day Mass – 3rd graders dressed up as their Saint and spoke about their Saint.

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)

14. Board Committee Reports:

a. Finance – Sheryl Lackey (See Full Report)

b. Policy & Procedure – Kurt Tressel

- i. Diocese recommends to eliminate policy 414A & 461 from Lourdes School Policy based on Diocesan directive. Motion made by Kurt Tressel. Second by Tom Quinn. Approved.

c. Public Relations / Marketing – Tyler Edwards

- i. Would like to get back to doing events post COVID..
- ii. Discussion regarding enrollment/tours. Jennifer Alongi has seen a lot more movement in students moving in/moving out of the school.
- iii. Tom Melchert recommended increasing messaging to families.
- iv. Home & School can also help with marketing.

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 Kurt Tressel to adjourn/Second by Dave Reilly. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

17. Closed Session – none needed

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**