

**Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education**  
**Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 - 6:00 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Meeting ID: 946 8749 2542**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

- President Tom Melchert called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- BOE Members Present: Tom Melchert, Chelsea Bush, Theresa Bechen, Father Crossen, Tyler Edwards, Tom Quinn, Dave Reilly, Kurt Tressel
- BOE Members Absent: Sandra Adamson, Brian Nikulski,
- Non-Voting Members Present: Jennifer Alongi, Sheryl Lackey, Father Lamansky, Brett Adams, Emily Andes, Anne Camarena, Gloria Mesick, Dan Colbrese, Jen Foley

**2. Opening Prayer**

- Father Lamansky opened the meeting and led the Board members and other attendees in prayer.

**3. Introduction of Guests**

- Nick Helle, Amy Reeves, Katherine & Ryan Wermes, Teacher attendees: Haley Burney, Leigh Johnson, Cayleigh Willits, Cari Robinson

**4. Approval of Agenda**

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 1/18/2022 meeting. Motion was made by Kurt Tressel to approve the agenda as written/second by Dave Reilly. Approved.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- President Melchert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/14/ 2021 BOE meeting. Motion was made by Kurt Tressel to approve the minutes as written/second by Tom Quinn. Approved.

**6. Open Forum -**

- Nick Helle – parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes discussed pre-school tuition
  - a) Mr. and Mrs. Helle Toured the LCS preschool to learn more about school and is very interested in sending their daughter to LCS pre-school. However, when reviewing pricing of pre-school compared to other programs in Bettendorf there is a significant price discrepancy. Pre-school tuition pricing from Our Savior Lutheran and from St. John Vianney pre-schools was provided to the BOE for comparison. Nick made the request to take this discrepancy into consideration when the budget is reviewed, and tuition is approved. Mr. Helle also mentioned the tuition subsidy provided by the parish to K-8 students is not available for pre-school students, he also requested consideration of that impact to families attending and staying at Lourdes Catholic School.
  - b) President Melchert thanked Mr. Helle for his time and mentioned the information and request would be passed on to the finance committee.

**7. Old Business -**

**8. New Business -**

**9. Father Jason Crossen Report -**

- Scott County Catholic Schools
  - a) Pastors met last month; plans continue to move along working towards implementing the new system by 2023.
  - b) Larger overall school board for SCCS planned to be in place by July of 2022. By the time we move into the new school year some of the duties and responsibilities of the independent school Boards of Education will change; in particular finances, budget and likely policy.

- c) This is a transition and will take time to work towards a new system. Father will share more data and detail with President Melchert to share with the BOE as available.
- Lourdes/St. John Vianney Strategic Planning Steering Committee
  - a) Met with Fr. Rich and representatives from both parishes and met with an architect Mark Miller to talk through the process of building a new school and education center. At beginning stages to determine needs and develop the facility plan.
  - b) Capital campaign likely to begin in about a year after feasibility study is completed.
- Catholic Schools Week
  - a) Bishop will be celebrating mass at LCS on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Synod on Synodality
  - a) Will be begin listening sessions for Our Ladies of Lourdes within the next few weeks. Listening sessions are focusing on two questions, “What makes your heart ache about the church?” and “What makes your heart rejoice about the church?”

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

- COVID
  - a) Total of 66 COVID cases for the school year among students, total of 22 for students. Several since the beginning of the calendar year.
  - b) Have returned to a socially distanced lunchroom and students eating in the classroom.
- Catholic Schools Week
  - a) Several faith-based activities planned. The all-schools mass at Assumption will be postponed due to COVID, hoping to reschedule in the spring time frame.
- Tuition Rate Proposal for non-parishioners
  - a) Requesting approval of the non-parishioner rate to be \$6,800 per student. This rate has been reviewed by the finance committee and received approval from parish finance council. Motion to approve non-parishioner tuition rate for next year to be \$6,800 per student made by Kurt Tressel/second by Tom Quinn. Motion approved by the board.
- Principal Contract
  - a) Ms. Alongi read a statement to the Board of Education stating that she is declining to be offered a principal contract for the next school year. She has provided notification to Superintendent Devaney, Fr. Crossen and now the Board of Education. Her current contract is in place through June 30. Sincere thanks was provided by many for her 8 years of leadership.

**11. Business Manager’s Report – Sheryl Lackey (See Full Report)**

- December was a good month; school deficit was (\$11,067) compared to (\$27,383) planned
- YTD deficit is (\$205,055) compared to (\$157,047) forecast
- Scrip had profit of \$1,369 in December. Program working smoothly.
- Building and grounds update, replaced actuator in room 45 that had recently been repaired
- Maintenance has been busy with various plumbing issues in bathrooms

**12. Religious Education Report – Emily Andes/Brett Adams (See Full Report)**

- Continuing to balance in person and Zoom activities
- Fellowship Sundays adapting to COVID situation, continuing meet as GROW group and religious Ed sessions
- Hosted pro-life speaker Dr. Monique Ruberu on January 8, checkout video on Facebook page
- Middle School Youth continues to have good attendance, 66% of the middle school students have come to at least one of the youth nights. Growing engagement with the middle school.
- Planning joint parish mission night with St. John Vianney on April 10-11 featuring musician and speaker Steve Angrisano. Also looking for time for Steve to come to the school.

**13. Special Interest Group Reports:**

- Boosters/AD Report – Dan Colbrese
  - a) New uniforms for boys basketball should arrive soon
  - b) Thanks to parents for stepping up, volunteer support increasing and making a big difference
- Home & School Association – Jen Foley (See Full Report)

- a) MobileCause has raised nearly \$3,000 year to date
- b) Starry Night – moving forward with Silent Auction the week before the event. Planning for in person event on March 26 with dinner.
- c) Scrip; contest before Christmas led to large increase in family participation. Discussion around reasons for November sales down compared to other years.
- Teacher Representative – Anne Camarena/ Gloria Mesick (See Full Report)
  - a) Plans in place for Catholic Schools week
  - b) Spelling Bee schedule for Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - c) Two new student teachers, one in fifth grade and one in sixth grade started when returned from break
  - d) Teachers are working hard, navigating a lot of change and extra needs through the past year and with staffing shortages related to COVID. Need to be sure that what is happening behind the front lines is understood.
- Parish Council Report – Teresa Bechen,(no meeting)
- Assumption - John Leinart, no report

**14. Board Committee Reports:**

- Finance – Sheryl Lackey
  - a) Andy Craig met with committee to review SCCS tuition model. While other schools have chosen to go with the SCCS tuition model for non-parishioners LCS will continue with our current model for the next year.
  - b) Committee is working to incorporate the SCCS salary scales into the LCS budget. Salary scales will converge over the coming years, no one will ever receive a pay cut through these changes.
- Policy & Procedure – Kurt Tressel (no report, reviews are complete for the year)
- Public Relations / Marketing – Tyler Edwards
  - a) Currently about 1200 followers on Facebook, continuing to post daily
  - b) In person activities have been challenged through the last couple years. Some discussion that as things change and open up the committee should look for new engagement.
- St John Vianney Update – (no report)
- Executive – Tom Melchert (no report)

**15. Closing Prayer**

- Father Jason Crossen led the BOE and other attendees in closing prayer.

**16. Adjourn Regular Session**

- Motion to adjourn meeting offered by Kurt Tressel / Second Tyler Edwards, meeting adjourned 7:06 pm

**17. Closed Session If Needed**

**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**