

Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - 6:00 PM
Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

- President Dave Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- BOE Members Present: Dave Reilly, Sandra Adamson, Teresa Bechen, Chelsea Bush, Father Crossen, Tyler Edwards
- BOE Members Absent: Brian Nikulski, Tom Quinn, Kurt Tressel
- Non-Voting Members Present: Brett Adams, Jennifer Alongi, Anne Camarena, Dan Colbrese, Jen Foley, Sheryl Lackey, Father Lamansky, Gloria Mesick

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- President Dave Reilly began the meeting with an announcement that the Board meeting would be digitally recorded to help the secretary with the documentation of the minutes.
- Andy Craig, President of Assumption High School and Scott County Catholic School System will provide an update on the role of the Board and structure of Scott County Catholic Schools and the work being done.
- Dave welcomed guests and asked that they sign the guest sign-in sheet.
- Guests in attendance: Brent Morlock, Tim Wilson, Erin Crigger, Ryan & Katherine Wermes, Sarah Snyder, Angie Kaney, Katie Carroll, Greg Adamson, Katie Selden, Kristine Girsakis, Andrea Reilly.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 4/19/2022 meeting. Motion to approve was made by Sandra Adamson/Seconded by Tyler Edwards to approve the agenda as written. Approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/29/2022 BOE meeting. Motion to approve was made by Tyler Edwards/Seconded by Chelsea Bush to approve the minutes as written. Approved.

6. OPEN FORUM

- a) President Reilly asked for any new topics to be presented for Open Forum. As a reminder, Open Forum is the opportunity for guests to bring new topics to the table. There were no new topics presented.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Many guests who attended the March 29th BOE meeting had several questions and recognized concerns. President Reilly shared actions that have taken place since the last meeting regarding staffing levels, plans, student enrollment etc. going forward. The Finance Committee met as well as well as ongoing conversations with Ms. Alongi to discuss the comfort level with the resources that are available and how the staffing plan looked and what changes needed to be made recognizing that enrollment is dynamic and budgeting is fluid. We need to make sure that priorities vs wants are recognized. There were some slight tweaks made to the preliminary budget as we go into the new school to match the proposal that was made by Principal Alongi. The preliminary budget that was presented and approved by the BOE is an increase of over \$100,000 compared to what was budgeted for the subsidy to the school from the past school year. The parish Finance Council has approved the budget. The subsidy is based on the student enrollment. Lourdes subsidizes at a higher rate per student than any of the other grade schools in the Scott County Catholic School system.
- b) Ms. Alongi reported an update to the budget. We were able to add a part-time teaching position which is going to enable the school to provide additional intervention next school year. Currently, we have the equivalent of 2 full-time interventionists. One of those is an LCS employee and the other two are part-time who are hired with EANS money paid through Bettendorf Schools. We consider our Enrichment program as an intervention because those students need to be challenged. This brings the total of

interventionists to 2.5 for this school year. Looking at next school year, we will still have a our full-time LCS employee, and enough in the budget to offer a half-time position to a Lourdes employee who will also do intervention. By using part of the Title 1 and EANS money we will have another half time interventionist funded by Bettendorf. That would bring us up to 2.0 interventionists for next year. Enrichment will be added back into the Lourdes budget and will be attached to the 75% Spanish position. That Enrichment position is .25 which brings us to 2.25 total Enrichment positions for the 2022-23 school year. This is .25 below what was offered this current school year.

- c) Ms. Alongi spoke about how the state school funding model works for Preschool.
- i) State funding is based on enrollment from the previous school year. (i.e. October 1, 2021 enrollment was 55 state funded students) In essence, state funding for the 2022-23 will be for 55 students based on the 2021-22 school year. For example, if enrollment was 80 students, Lourdes would only receive state funding for 55 of those students enrolled. She also pointed out that as a shared partner with Bettendorf, Lourdes is not allowed to collect tuition from any additional students enrolled. Extra students enrolling would have to be subsidized somehow.
 - ii) Sheryl Lackey explained the adjustments and reallocation of funds for the 2022-23 budget.
 - iii) Gloria Mesick shared concerns regarding the church subsidizing the school. Father Jason explained that LCS provides more services than other Catholic schools in the Diocese (i.e. more employees, benefits, full-time Counselor, Spanish teacher, full-time Special Education teacher, etc).
 - iv) President Reilly spoke about the Scott County Catholic School System changes stating that the BOE meeting is not the forum to address all of the questions regarding the upcoming changes (i.e. Scott County Catholic School System, conversations/questions/concerns regarding the new school/church etc.) so there is a recommendation to hold a Town Hall meeting where parents can ask questions. Parents should submit their questions ahead of time so that the appropriate people can be in place to answer questions in a more detailed manner. The date is to be determined.

8. NEW BUSINESS – SCOTT COUNTY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STRUCTURE

- President Reilly introduced Andy Craig, President of Assumption High School and Scott County Catholic Schools to the BOE and guests.
- Andy provided a presentation to the Board and guests about the Implementation Overview of the planned changes from the current educational organization to the Scott County Schools organization.
- Andy spoke about Catholic schools and asked “Where do we need and want to be in the next 5 to 10 years (i.e. education, faith formation, operation, development, marketing, building/grounds) and how can Catholic schools remain competitive against public schools. How do we remain competitive long-term and how do we grow?” It’s not just about the number of kids in the school, but the number of kids in the school which hopefully leads to the number of people in the pews at church (keeping the faith strong is the goal).
- We had a strategic planning committee and employed Meitler Consulting Company along with the Strategic Planning Committee helped to create a strategic plan for Catholic schools. They looked at the challenges our schools were facing and determined how to collectively solve those problems. One example of this is the Family Tuition Plan which provides tuition assistance for all eligible families in Catholic schools in Scott County.
- Working on three fronts: 1) Governance Structure, 2) Finance, 3) Communications and Marketing
- 2023 is the transition year for Scott County Catholic Schools Implementation.
- During the phases of the transition, employees of their respective school will begin to work with their Scott County Catholic School teams.
- At the completion of the transition, all employees will work under the Scott County Catholic School organization. Andy stated that Assumption employees will become employees of Scott County Schools beginning July 1, 2023. Nothing will change with logos or school names but it is simply where their paycheck comes from.

- Andy explained the new organizational structure.
 - a) The Bishop is the head of the Corporation.
 - b) Diocesan Board of Education
 - c) Trustees (Parish Priests)
 - d) Scott County Catholic Schools BOE
 - e) Advisory Boards (AHS, ASCS, JFK, OLOL, SPS)
- Governance - School Advisory Board responsibilities.
- Andy next talked about the new school Advisory Board responsibilities and the Scott County Catholic Schools potential board committees.
 - a) Executive
 - b) Mission & Governance
 - c) Education
 - d) Finance
 - e) Human Resources
 - f) Communications & Development
 - g) Facilities
 - h) Technology
- Andy spoke about common processes and systems to include such things as the common tuition plan, common compensation & benefits, and a common system for financial systems with the ultimate goal of standardizing all processes & systems across all five Scott County Catholic Schools.
- Some of the projects being worked on:
 - a) Common Chart of Accounts
 - b) Common Tuition Plan
 - c) Common Salary Schedules
 - d) Common Accounts & Benefits
 - e) Common Payroll System
 - f) Common Student Information System
 - g) Common Application System
- Andy explained how parish subsidy works. Andy answered a few questions from visitors.
 - a) Teacher salary schedule
 - b) Fundraising
- If guests or BOE has any additional questions/concerns, Andy can be reached at andycraig@assumptionhigh.org.
- President Reilly thanked Andy Craig for presenting to the BOE and guests.

9. FATHER JASON CROSSEN REPORT

- **LENT & EASTER ACTIVITIES**
 - a) 16 people became members of the church (baptisms, confirmation, conversions).
- **POST-COVID**
 - a) Looking back, strengths and weaknesses were identified. Father will continue to work on better communication/transparency/better relationships with parish, school and BOE in reporting.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING/STEERING COMMITTEE**
 - a) The deal to acquire 25-30 acres of donated land fell through so the committee went off on their own to find land.
 - b) The Steering Committee is composed of equal numbers Lourdes, St. John Vianney parishioners and the two pastors. Mark Miller from Great Architects volunteered his time to help to coordinate and help educate the committee on how to acquire land and begin the building process.
 - c) An offer had been made on 30 acres of land. The offer /proposal was made with the help of Attorney Molly O'Meara-Schnel, from Sacred Heart. She is donating 500 hours of her time and then after that time, will charge half of her normal rate. Our proposal is in negotiations. Father stated that he will share additional details at a later time. He is hoping that in a month or two, the land will be purchased and is located in the northeast part of Bettendorf. Father will work to educate parishioners and a feasibility study will be completed by later summer/early fall to help people understand what and why we need a new school, why are we partnering with St. John Vianney, and help answer many other questions.

- **DIOCESAN CAMPAIGN “ON THIS ROCK”**

- a) The Diocesan Campaign “On This Rock, is a \$28,000,000 campaign to help bolster the retired priest’s portfolio. We currently have more retired priests than active priests. There is not enough money to fund their living and medical expenses. Another part of the campaign is for seminarians. Education for seminarians is very expensive and that fund is nearly depleted. Parish Sharing – The campaign has three parts 1) retired priests, 2) seminarians, 3) Parish sharing. St. John Vianney and Lourdes have agreed coordinate their campaigns. The first \$3,500,000 raised by St. John Vianney and Lourdes will go the Diocesan Campaign. The rest of the money raised will be used to finance a new Catholic school and church.
- b) The campaign will begin January/February/March of 2023. Steir Group who is running the campaign for the Diocese will also help Lourdes with our campaign. Fifty percent of the monies must be raised before building can begin on the new church and school.
- c) We could potentially begin building the new school in 2025.
- d) In the next month, Father will be forming a school committee which would consist of members of staff, teachers BOE members to consider what they would like to see in a new school. What does a modern-day Catholic school have or look like? Will it be a two-section school, etc. A marketing person will be hired for the Scott County Catholic School system which will help with promoting this new school. The current school would be sold.

- **FATHER LAMANSKY**

- a) Father Lamansky is being reassigned to be the Parochial Vicar at Clinton on July 1st. He has also been assigned to be the school chaplain at Prince of Peace School in Clinton. He will be teaching Religion to juniors and seniors. Congratulations!

10. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – Jennifer Alongi (See Full Report)

- Principal Alongi provided an update on registration for the 2022-23 school year. K-8, there 222 students enrolled.
 - a) Parents asked Ms. Alongi questions about class sizes for next year.
 - b) There are still teachers without a contract for next school year.
 - c) Parents shared concerns regarding building a new school and not having the enrollment to support the expense of building the school. Father said there is solid evidence to support building a new school. Partnering with St. John Vianney, offering a better location where the city is growing, being able to offer handicapped access, having Scott County Catholic Schools supporting the move is in our favor. It would cost more to update the current school vs building a new school.
- ISASP Testing for grades 3-8.
- Encouraged parents attend the virtual Parent University on Thursday night. If parents complete the course, their student will be rewarded with a free NUT day.
- SIAC Committee to meet next month.

11. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT – Sheryl Lackey (See Full Report)

- Sheryl highlighted aspects of the Manager’s Report.
- For the month of March, the Church Subsidy is **(\$5,399)** and Budget is **(27,383)**.

12. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT – Emily Andes/Brett Adams (See Full Report)

- Faith & Fellowship Sundays held their last session on May 1st.
- Religious Education has concluded for this cycle.
- Last Confirmation class to be held May 9th.
- The Steve Angrisano event was a well-received. A survey was sent to parishioners to be completed by those who did and did not attend to help gain some information about why and how programs can be improved in the future.
- Middle School Ministry
 - a) soup suppers were held,
 - b) Lenten Bible study
 - c) Seventy-five percent of Lourdes students in grades 6 through 8 graders were engaged in the programs.
- 1st Communion being held.

- We had our 1st ever peer led Confirmation retreat. Those being confirmed wrote their feedback about what they got out of the retreat. Some of the take-away comments are:
 - a) “Even if it seems like you are too late for God, you never are.”
 - b) “I need to get closer to God.”
 - c) “This retreat helped me to get more ready for Confirmation.”
 - d) “The thing that stood out to me was different speakers and volunteers. The fact that they desired to come back and talk to us about God shows a lot about their faith. They are good role models.”
 - e) “I’ve been inspired to become closer to God and take full advantage of my Confirmation experience and make it a very important part of my faith journey.”
 - f) “I found my faith again.”
 - g) “I was surprised how our small groups shared so many similar experiences showed me that I am not alone in my struggles and that there is always someone I can relate to.”

13. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS:

- **BOOSTERS/AD REPORT – Dan Colbrese**
 - a) No updates at this time.
- **HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – Jen Foley (See Full Report)**
 - a) Jen was excited to report that another \$10,000 has been received from Starry Night which brings the total received to over \$60,000. Money continues to come in – it was a really good year.
- **TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE – Anne Camarena/ Gloria Mesick (See Full Report)**
 - a) Gloria reported that on the Thursday before Easter break, the 8th grade students put on live Stations of the Cross. It was very powerful.
 - b) The 3rd through 8th grade students began ISAP testing.
 - c) PK are learning about Earth and have 6 baby chicks. They also have 14 chrysalises.
 - d) First graders did an Easter egg hunt to practice counting coins, telling time.
 - e) Second graders are working with solids and liquids.
 - f) Third grade students went on a field trip to Iowa City (Ronald McDonald House, Museum of Natural History, Old Capital).
 - g) Fifth grade is learning about mixtures and solutions and working on JA Biz Town
 - h) Middle School is doing Literature circles. They are doing Poetry projects and completing a unit titled *Approaching Adulthood* as they wrap up the 8th grade.
- **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Teresa Bechen**
 - a) No report at this time. Parish Council to meet next week.
- **ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL REPORT – John Leinart (President Reilly shared the report)**
 - a) President Reilly shared that John reported the presentation that was given at tonight’s BOE meeting was shared with Assumption BOE.
 - b) A fundraiser is planned for this weekend.

14. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: (See Full Report)

- **FINANCE – Sheryl Lackey**
 - a) Work and review of the budget for the 2021-22 school year and 2022-23 continues.
- **POLICY & PROCEDURE– Kurt Tressel**
 - a) No updates at this time.
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS/MARKETING – Tyler Edwards**
 - a) The committee has not met.
 - b) Scott County Catholic School is integrating logos into the social media platforms.
- **ST. JOHN VIANNEY - Update – Brian Nikulski**
 - a) No update at this time.
- **EXECUTIVE – Dave Reilly**
 - a) President Reilly mentioned again that it’s time to work on the nomination process for the Board. Tyler to work with the nomination committee and David to make sure the nomination form is updated and posted in the Bulletin for three weeks. There are going to be three open positions. Tyler Edwards and

Dave Reilly are leaving the Board having served two terms. Tom Melchert's position also needs to be filled.

15. CLOSING PRAYER

- Father Crossen led the BOE and guests in a closing prayer.

16. Adjourn Regular Session

- Motion to adjourn meeting offered by Teresa Bechen/ Second by Tyler Edwards. Approved. Meeting adjourned 7:39 p.m.

17. CLOSED SESSION IF NEEDED

18. ADJOURN

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

- ✓ 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