

**Lourdes Catholic School – Board of Education**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - 6:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- President Dave Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- BOE Members Present: Dave Reilly, Chelsea Bush, Teresa Bechen, Father Crossen, Tom Quinn, Sandra Adamson
- BOE Members Absent: Kurt Tressel, Brian Nikulski, Tyler Edwards
- Non-Voting Members Present: Jennifer Alongi, Sheryl Lackey, Father Lamansky, Brett Adams, Anne Camarena, Gloria Mesick, Dan Colbrese, Jen Foley.

**2. OPENING PRAYER**

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

**3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

- Newly appointed BOE President Dave Reilly began the meeting by providing an update on the Melchert family. He mentioned that the Melchert family is appreciative of the many prayers and support during this difficult time.
- Prior to the introductions of guests, President Reilly asked the BOE members to introduce themselves.
- Guests in attendance: Chantel Cannon, Brent Morlok, Cari Robinson, Maria Constantinides, Kelly Keeney, Dave & Angie Kaney, Shannon Heck, Cayleah Willits, Brian & Kristine Girsakis, Kayla McIntosh, Danielle Behnke, Andrea Reilly, Kelly Kruck, Katie Selden, Jenny Grobstich, Nate Meier, Joe Camarena, Alicia Gieck, Chrissy Hayes, Erin Crigger, and other guests.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 3/29/2022 meeting. Motion to approve was made by Sandra Adamson/Seconded by Tom Quinn to approve the agenda as written. Approved.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/18/2022 BOE meeting. Motion to approve was made by Tom Quinn/Seconded by Chelsea Bush to approve the minutes as written. Approved.

**6. OPEN FORUM -**

- President Reilly explained to guests the purpose of Open Forum reminded guests that when they speak/present to give their name and to keep their presentation to a couple of minutes.
  - a) Dave Kaney expressed concerns regarding the effects the pandemic has had on students, staff, and teachers, the effects of the class size policy, building a new school, church, hiring a new principal, and staff reduction.
  - b) Brent Morlock spoke about academics. He spoke about a report that was presented by the United Way at a recent Bettendorf City Council meeting. The report indicated that 30 percent of students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in our area are at proficient reading level post pandemic. He expressed that he is not in favor of reducing teaching staff. He had concerns regarding class sizes, merging classes together. Brent feels that Lourdes Catholic School is at a disadvantage because they are competing with two really great public-school districts (Pleasant Valley and Bettendorf).
  - c) Erin Crigger expressed concerns regarding the future of kids' education and teaching staff. It is important to give kids the best education they can get. Smaller class sizes are important. Spend the money, don't cut staff.
  - d) Joe Camarena shared concerns regarding cutting teaching staff because of finances. The school is an investment in the parish. Teachers continue to do what is right for the children who attend LCS. Finances is the last thing on a teacher's mind but rather what is best for the child.
  - e) Katie Selden stated that we need to show that we value the school. We need to do what we can to get kids into LCS. Teachers believe in Catholic education. Lourdes subsidizes a large

portion of the school budget. Before cutting teachers, we need to go through every line item and use every dime. Look for other places to cut before cutting teachers.

**7. OLD BUSINESS –**

- a) President Reilly stated that there was a potential parent that previously came to the Board regarding preschool tuition for the 2022-23 school year. The Board previously approved the preschool tuition based on enrollment and was reviewed by the finance committee and no changes are expected.

**8. NEW BUSINESS -**

**9. FATHER JASON CROSSEN REPORT -**

- Media Announcement of newly hired Principal for the 2022-23 school year.
  - a) Three candidates were interviewed. Mr. Michael Hughes was selected and has accepted the position. He will begin his duties on July 1, 2022.
  - b) Father shared Mr. Hughes's Bio with the BOE and guests.
- Lourdes/St. John Vianney Strategic Planning Steering Committee
  - a) Father mentioned that the committee is continuing to meet. A Capital Campaign will be conducted beginning in January, 2023.
  - b) Considerations are being given to two plots of land. More news to come.
  - c) Will need to get a school committee together consisting of parents, teachers, school personnel and people who are experts on what a new modern Catholic school should look like.
- Scott County Catholic Schools
  - a) Scott County Catholic Schools are continuing to meet. Andy Craig met with teachers and answered questions. He will do a presentation to the Board next month.
- Lenten Schedule
  - a) Busy with confessions, Easter, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation.
- Students Reading Liturgy
  - a) President Reilly asked when students could resume leading/reading Liturgy at mass. Father stated that training needs to take place and most likely would look at doing that after Easter. Father Jason said that the pre-pandemic practice of students helping to plan and execute part of the liturgy (bringing up gifts, doing the readings, prayer intentions, etc.) would not resume until the next school year.

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

- 2022-23 SCHOOL CALENDAR
  - a) The calendar is comparable to Bettendorf School District's calendar.
  - b) A motion was made by Sandra Adamson/Second by Tom Quinn to approve the 2022-23 School Calendar as written. Approved.
- REGISTRATION
  - a) Ms. Alongi stated that she submitted an updated report and highlighted registration numbers that increased or decreased. A 1<sup>st</sup> grade student was enrolled and started on Monday. There were some changes to registration numbers for the 2022-23 school year.
- EANS MONIES
  - a) Ms. Alongi reported that she was informed that Lourdes is only allowed to carry over 10% of unspent EANS monies. Monies remaining must be spent by June 30, 2022. \$17,909.00 is available for the 2022-23 school year which is less than what Ms. Alongi thought was available.
- STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
  - b) President Reilly complimented Ms. Alongi for the creation of the Student Ambassador program.

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

- Sheryl highlighted aspects of the Manager's Report.
- The YTD deficit for the school is (\$273,523) and YTD Budget is (211,813).
- Home & School checking balance includes Starry Night monies.

- Scrip Bank Balance/Inventory Balance/Profit
- Deferred Revenue will be highlighted under the Finance Report
- FTP (Family Tuition Plan) Balance
- Building & Grounds
  - a) The Trustees met with the teachers. One of the Trustees did a walk through the school building and identified areas that need attention/work to be done (i.e. ceiling tiles, roofing etc.). There were items of immediate concern that are being addressed.

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

- **Faith & Fellowship Sundays**
  - a) Soup Sundays
  - b) Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2022 followed by a SYNOD Listening Session.
  - c) Faith Formation, Confirmation, Religious Ed are all on Sundays. The focus is bringing families together all on one day.
  - d) Brett shared information regarding the SYNOD.
  - e) Deacon Mike Snyder will be giving a presentation titled “58,000 Cups of Coffee.” An evangelical mission opportunity to share your faith with others over a cup of coffee.
  - f) A joint parish mission w/St. John Vianney featuring renowned Catholic musician & speaker Steve Angrisano will be held on April 10· 2022 (Our Lady – Night 1) 6:30-8 p.m., April 11, 2022 (St. John Vianney – Night 2) 6-8:30 p.m. Steve will also do a school assembly on April 11<sup>th</sup>. See the Church bulletin for additional information.
  - g) Twelve adults & five kids are part of the Catholic/RCIA process and will be either baptized and/or completing some sort of initiation.
  - h) Youth Ministry has had 11 meetings this year with middle school youth. 43 of the 62 youth who attend youth night activities are LCS students. They have reached about 2/3 of the Our Lady middle school students through their attendance at one of the youth programs. Brett is encouraged and excited about the attendance numbers. He said that by building and investing in the middle school program, it will help with the building of the high school program going forward. Youth night events help to build a safe space for kids who attend. It offers kids the opportunity to express themselves, to feel safe in doing so and to feel valued.
  - i) Lenten Oasis Group/Bible Study
  - j) A retreat for 2<sup>nd</sup> year confirmation students has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am-6:30 pm. Confirmation is scheduled for May 12, 2022.

## 13. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS:

- **BOOSTERS/AD REPORT – Dan Colbrese**
  - a) The sports season has ended. Dan asked parents for any questions/comments/feedback they have/would like to share.
    - i) Parents were appreciative that basketball was offered.
    - ii) President Reilly reached out to parents of athletes and said that Dan can’t be successful without the support of parents through their volunteerism. Please, if you have a student participating in sports, you are asked to help where you can by volunteering to serve. Thank you to those who have volunteered.
- **HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – Jen Foley (See Full Report)**
  - a) Parental volunteers are needed.
  - b) Open House is planned.
  - c) Home & School Board elections
  - d) Wrapped up Starry Night. Special thanks to Chrissy Hayes. No final numbers yet.
  - e) School Book Fair
  - f) Scrip competition goal met. No final numbers yet.
- **TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE – Anne Camarena/ Gloria Mesick (See Full Report)**

- a) Anne shared and explained a report that contains data about accommodations. Ann and Gloria have met to compile the data as well as the input from staff. The report shows grade levels this year and teacher ratio. Aides in the classroom are identified with an asterisk. LCS has high test scores and strong academics. A lot of accommodations make this possible. There are many types of accommodations whether it be academic, behavioral, time, reading/math intervention, speech, 504, IEP, enrichment etc. If an interventionist is not available, the classroom teacher must service the student(s). Fifty percent of students at LCS receive some sort of accommodation (intervention, enrichment, accommodation).
- b) Anne referred to a report of social/emotional needs of students. The LCS counselor provided data. The number of students experiencing anxiety is higher than typical.
- c) Teachers are aware that there is a financial responsibility. Teachers are called to teach and to meet the needs of all students.
- d) Academics Rooted in Faith
- e) Impact of building a new school
- f) Reduction in staff
- g) Class Size – Parents inquired what the school policy was. President Reilly shared the policy with those present.

School Policy 510.3 STUDENT PERSONNEL: Lourdes Catholic School understands the importance of the educational needs of its students for their academic, behavioral, social and spiritual development. The determination of class size will take the following considerations (in no particular order of importance):

1. Age, curriculum, achievement and grade level
2. Nature of instructional program
3. Number of adults available to assist the program, including professional aides and certified instructors
4. State regulations and school credentials needed to maintain accreditation
5. Instructor credentials, skills, experience and administrative recommendations
6. Financial needs of Lourdes Catholic School to remain a viable institution

The maximum number of students per class per grade is not to exceed the following without Board of Education approval:

➤ K-1: 25 students ➤ 2-5: 26 students ➤ 6-8: 28 students

- i Principal Alongi spoke to the class size limitations of LCS and compared that with the Bettendorf School District.
- ii BOE member Teresa Bechen shared some insights into interventions/accommodations and staffing.
- iii A parent asked if Starry Night funds can be used to help finance a staff member. President Reilly said donations do not provide stability year after year. Donations are not part of the operational budget of the school. More discussion is needed in the future. Explore some additional funding options.
- iv President Reilly thanked the teachers for compiling and explaining the data presented.

- **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT** – Teresa Bechen

- a) Teresa shared her experience and insight into a role-playing session in which she participated, and also discussed the importance of guiding people who might share a painful experience to the right people at the parish office.

- **ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL REPORT** – John Leinart (President Reilly shared the report)

- a) A lot of activity related to budget
- b) Teacher contracts
- c) Scott County Catholic Schools

- d) Discussion in Des Moines related to school choice initiatives. If you are not familiar with school choice initiatives you are encouraged to educate yourself. Make your voice be heard. It could impact how schools are managed in the future. Based on current polls, 52% of Iowans are opposed to school choice initiatives.

**14. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: (See Full Report)**

- **FINANCE** – Sheryl Lackey
  - a) Sheryl highlighted specific items in her report.
  - b) Sheryl asked for the BOE approval only to be able to issue teacher contracts.
  - c) President Reilly asked the Board for a motion to approve the preliminary budget as presented, to enable the business manager to move forward with contracts, with the understanding that the finance committee will continue to meet and discuss specific items presented related to staffing prior to final budget approval. A motion was made by Sandra Adamson to approve the preliminary budget as presented/Seconded by Teresa Bechen. Approved.
- **POLICY & PROCEDURE**– Kurt Tressel
  - a) The policies & procedures for this year are completed and have been posted to the web page.
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS/MARKETING** – Tyler Edwards
  - a) The committee has not met.
- **ST. JOHN VIANNEY** - Update – Brian Nikulski
  - a) No update at this time.
- **EXECUTIVE** – Dave Reilly
  - a) President Reilly mentioned to the Board that the April 19<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting is the time to kick off the marketing campaign for qualified and interested individuals who might be interested in becoming a member of the Board of Education. The terms of three Board members are soon to expire and the BOE is looking for replacements. Elections will take place at the May BOE meeting. If you know of someone who would be interested in serving, please submit their name/nomination form.
  - b) Andy Craig, President of Scott County Catholic Schools, will be present at the April BOE meeting. He will give an update on what the responsibilities will be of the Board under the New Catholic School Program which will be managed by SCCS.

**15. Closing Prayer**

- Father Lamansky led the BOE and other guests in closing prayer.

**16. Adjourn Regular Session**

- Motion to adjourn meeting offered by Chelsea Bush/ Second by Tom Quinn. Approved. Meeting adjourned 8:04 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**