

Ourdes Catholic School – Board of Education
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 – 6:00 PM
Minutes

1) Call to Order

- President Dave Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
- BOE Members Present: Dave Reilly, Brent Morlock, Angie Kaney, Brian Nikulski, Nate Meier, Kurt Tressel, Teresa Bechen, Chelsea Bush, Father Crossen
- BOE Members Absent: Sandra Adamson,
- Non-Voting Members Present: Jennifer Alongi, Sheryl Lackey, Dan Wilson, Brett Adams, Denise Howell o Non-Voting Members Absent: Gloria Mesick, Anne Camarena

2) Opening Prayer

- Father Jason Crossen provided the opening prayer

3) Introduction of Guests

- New board members Nate Meier, Angie Kaney and Brent Morlock were introduced
- Guests in attendance: Katie Ellis, Katiri Miller-Morris, Angela Beard, Tim Wilson, Kris Girskis

4) Approval of Agenda

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the 4/19/ meeting. Motion to approve was made by Kurt Tressel/Seconded by Brian Nikulski to approve the agenda as written. Approved.

5) Approval of May Minutes

- President Reilly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/17/2022 BOE meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Kurt Tressel/Seconded by Brian Nikulski. Approved.

6) Open Forum

- President Reilly asked guests if they had any topics to present to the Board. He reminded guests that Open Forum is a time for the Board to hear/listen and to determine what action needs to be taken. • Katie Ellis spoke as an advocate for special education at LCS. There have been growing concerns among the special education community at LCS that with numerous changes taking place at Ourdes, such as administration and transition to Scott County Catholic Schools System, their voices may be lost. Katie asked the board that as decisions for the future are made it keeps in mind that Catholic education should be a gift available to all children. Currently LCS is the only Catholic grade school in the community that offers special education. She requested school leadership to continue to be proud of special education as a service to the community and keep it available in the future. As questions or concerns

regarding how to meet the needs of special education students arise work with the special education families to determine how to meet the student needs; academically, developmentally, and financially.

- i. Brian Nikulski asked if services being looked for are not available. Katie mentioned continued additional education for teachers to work with special needs students is a needed.
- ii. Additional comments and questions were made regarding funding.
 1. FIRE Foundation is one organization to explore
 2. AEA funding is often directed to public schools, private school often need to fight for AEA funding
 3. Alternative means such as grants may be available

7) Old Business

- Class sizes for 2022-2023 School year – President Reilly shared that enrollment numbers, as well as staffing commitments are continuing to change. No final decisions would be made regarding class sizes until the new administrator is in place and he has a chance to evaluate enrollment and staffing commitments. Teacher input for classes will be taken into consideration as well as concerns from families.
 - i. Discussion took place to clarify current enrollment, class sizes by grade and recent changes in teaching staff.

8) New Business

- No new business

9) Father Jason Crossen Report

- Parochial Vicar
 - i. Father John Lamansky has officially transitioned to his new role. Father Ben Snyder will be joining Our Lady of Lourdes and should be arriving shortly.
- Open positions
 - i. Actively interviewing candidates for Director of Religious Education to backfill Emily Andes
 - ii. Actively looking for a music director to backfill Mary Decker
- Future School Planning
 - i. Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Vianney have jointly agreed to the purchase 60 acres of land in northeast Bettendorf. Final inspections taking place.
 - ii. Feasibility study for a new school will begin this summer. The study will identify needs for future school as well as determine when to begin a capital campaign. Father is currently creating a cross representative committee including members from BOE, teaching staff and families to identify needs and wants of new school.

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

- ISASP test results are in. Overall results very good. Compliments to the teachers for the good work they do educating our children.
 - i. Question was asked if the tests provided any indication of an impact COVID has had on the knowledge and learning of the students. Ms. Alongi commented that history of ISASP does not exist for a good compare to pre-

COVID. Academics may have seen some impact however the social and emotional needs of the students is where the impact has really been seen. Much higher levels of stress and anxiety now among the students, as well as the teachers. Teachers are seeing that students are needing more help in how to deal with emotions and reintegrate into a normal classroom environment.

- ii. Question asked regarding how LCS results compare to public schools around us. Ms. Alongi answered that in the past we have typically scored as well or better, for this year the public-school scores are not yet available for a compare however given that LCS remained in school vs virtual through COVID she anticipates we will compare favorably.
- iii. Jennifer was asked, given test scores what her recommendation would be for Mr. Hughes. She responded that with the new science curriculum LCS has she would look to ensure alignment with the science standards that are being assessed and for potential holes that need filled.

- ACRE test results are included in the principal report. ACRE measure student knowledge of the Catholic faith. Significant improvement was seen over the previous year's results.
- Ms. Alongi is working with Mr. Hughes on administrator transition.
- President Reilly thanked Ms. Alongi for her several years of leadership at LCS!

11) Business Manager's Report – Sheryl Lackey (See Full Report)

- For the month of April, the Church Subsidy was (\$17,957) and budgeted amount was (\$27,383). Year-to Date Church Subsidy is (\$320,904) as compared to the budgeted amount (\$293,383).
- Next year with the new SCCS billing system all families will be billed for tuition monthly. Families can continue to pay quarterly, semi-annually, or annually if they would like however an invoice will still be generated each month. Families will see actual balance on their statements.
- Discussion took place to clarify how the state-funded pre-school program works. All reimbursement is based on enrollment as of October 1st. As the strategy to work towards a new Catholic school in Bettendorf continues the collaboration between the pre-schools at both parishes, to feed the K-8 program needs to be considered.

12) Religious Education Report – Brett Adams (See Full Report)

- With the transition of the Director of Religions Education the faith formation staff is looking at their current offerings and what that transition will mean for what can be offered.
- Vacation Bible School preliminary work is underway, 56 registrants and 13 volunteers in place so far. Looking to grow both participants and volunteers.
- Working to establish a group to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference in July.

13) Special Interest Group Reports:

- Boosters/AD Report – No report
- Home & School Association – Jen Foley/Denise Howell
 - i. Starry Night raised closed to \$75,000
 - ii. Year-end events: field day and family picnic both completed with good turnout

- iii. Working on transition to new Home and School president Denise Howell
- Teacher Representative – no report, teachers have started summer vacation
- Parish Council Report – Teresa Bechen
 - i. Mass counts are still lower than pre-COVID levels however attendance is climbing.
 - ii. Parish is in need of Eucharistic ministers, lectors and greeters
- Assumption – No report

14) Board Committee Reports:

- Finance – finance council approved budget this morning, any revisions will be reviewed during month of July
 - Policy & Procedure – review for the year is complete
 - Public Relations / Marketing – No report
 - St John Vianney Update – No report
 - Executive – Dave Reilly
 - i. Board of Education orientation for all schools in the diocese is tentatively planned to be held virtually on September 8th
 - ii. Proposed Committee Assignments for 2022-2023 School Year. Board members are chairs to the committee, additional support should be solicited as required.
1. Executive – Dave Reilly, Sandra Adamson, Chelsea Bush, Fr. Crossen
 2. Finance – Dave Reilly, Nate Meier
 3. Policy & Procedure – Kurt Tressel, Nate Meier
 4. Marketing & Communications – Kris Girskis
 5. Scott County Catholic Schools Advisory – Brian Nikulski
 6. School Improvement Advisory Committee – Chelsea Bush, Teresa Bechen
 7. Building & Grounds – Brent Morlock
 8. Pastoral Council Rep – Teresa Bechen
 9. SJV Council Rep – TBD
 10. Grant Writing - TBD

15) Closing Prayer – Closing prayer offered by Jennifer Alongi

16) Adjourn Regular Session –

- Motion to adjourn offered by Brian Nikulski/Seconded by Kurt Tressel. Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

17) Closed Session If Needed – N/A

18) Adjourn

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

Tuesday, August 16, 2022
 Tuesday, September 20, 2022
 Tuesday, October 18, 2022
 Tuesday, November 15, 2022
 Tuesday, December 13, 2022
 Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Tuesday, June 20, 2023