

## **St. Luke the Evangelist School Board Meeting Minutes February 23, 2016**

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the School Board was called to order at 7:03 p.m. at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church by President Licia Pettit.

Members present: Kayla Curran, Kayla Crann, Licia Pettit, Amy Thompson, Travis Funseth, Dennelle Hogan, Shawn Althaus

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Tonya Eaton, Fr. Larry Hoffmann

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to add playground discussion and to read a letter from a prospective parent were added to the agenda. Motion approved.

### **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**

Minutes approved by email.

### **Open Forum**

Maureen Edsen, parent of a current St. Luke's student, spoke to the board. Mrs. Edsen is a former public and private school teacher. She addressed the board on the issues of opening a second section of kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year, and on setting a classroom capacity size of 20 students. She discussed the disappointment and difficulty being experienced by parents whose children were waitlisted. She also shared her thoughts on the benefits of a smaller class size citing the quality of the learning environment, as well as the advantage a small class size would give our school in comparison with the public schools.

### **Open Letter**

The board received a letter from Chrissy Eberhart, a parent whose prospective kindergartner is on the wait list for next year. Mrs. Eberhart expressed disappointment as she was unaware of the need to come early on registration day and would have changed her parish affiliation to St. Luke's if she had been made aware of the competitive nature of admissions. She encouraged the board to consider opening a second section of kindergarten.

### **Discussion Items**

Family School Association: On May 22<sup>nd</sup> the FSA will be sponsoring the annual bike/walk/run event from Our Lady's to St. Luke's.

Calendar: The first day of school next year will be August 25, 2016. The board approved this and all remaining dates for next year's school calendar.

School and Classroom update: Mrs. Madison will return to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from maternity leave tomorrow. The students are doing Stations of the Cross each week during Lent. FAST testing went well. This is a

computer conducted reading assessment. Tonya will bring the Iowa Assessment information to the board.

Playground: After consulting with knowledgeable individuals in the Ankeny Community School District, the playground committee has chosen a local company to construct our playground and has selected what structures and ground material will be used. The plans will be presented to the facilities committee. Tonya presented a rendering of the playground to the board, along with a preliminary figure of \$68,000 to complete the project. A large portion of this amount includes grading, tiling and drainage. This amount will have to come from donations and fundraising.

Budget: Tonya distributed a Statement of Activities for January 2016 which included a breakdown of expense and income. We expect to receive a grant that will cover additional furniture expenses. Next year's enrollment stands at 68 right now. The school will be taking on new expenses next year that were met entirely by the parish this year. These include janitorial, grounds, utilities and trash costs. Therefore the portion of the school expenses subsidized by the parish will be lower this year. The amount currently subsidized by the parish is consistent with most Catholic schools.

Technology: Currently the school owns a 25 Chromebook station as well as classroom computers. The board had a discussion on technology in the classroom. Do we want to have a 1 on 1 device to student ratio? What do the teachers want? The need for a long-term technology plan was discussed as well as possible technology fees to be assessed in the future. We do have budget lines for software and licensing.

The budget was motioned and approved to progress to Finance Council.

Goals: The school goals need to originate with staff. In analyzing board goals, Licia sent a graphic for the board to look over. Any member can edit it. The need for a separate meeting for goals was discussed. A special session will be held after a survey is sent to current parents asking what they value in the school and what ideals they have for its future.

### **Next Meeting**

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 22<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Margery Pierce