

St. Luke the Evangelist School Board Meeting Minutes January 29, 2019

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the School Board was called to order following prayer at 6:39 p.m. at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church by Licia Pettit.

Members present: David Niedergeses, Sam Knezevic , Kelly Royal, Licia Pettit, Anna Schaffer

Member absent: Scott Ciochetto

Staff present: Principal Tonya Eaton, Father Adam Westphal , Vicki Gilloley

Visitors present: Susan Grebasch, Aaron Shell, Chrissy Eberhart, Maureen Edsen, Mike Fitzpatrick, Wayne Johnson

Open Forum

Aaron Shell, representing Parish Finance Council, addressed the board. The Finance Council committed to the school a subsidy of \$120,000.

Mr Shell outlined the reasons that the subsidy could not meet the budgeted request of the school. Finance Council is working to ensure the parish finances are viable long-term. The tithing income from parishioners has not kept pace with expenses as the parish has grown. The reserve fund is diminishing and the council has to make plans now for sustaining the parish budget once it is depleted. The reserve fund has thus far allowed the parish to operate at a deficit, but that is not sustainable long-term. The council is looking to reinvest the fund in order to make additional income, but as a majority of the parish expense are fixed overhead items, the ground lost had to be made up in the subsidy to the school. The council is investigating having a consultant help with a tithing campaign to increase parishioner tithes.

The council suggested the school look into grant writing and using FSA fundraising to close the gap made by the decreased subsidy. Numerous options were discussed to help make up the shortfall, including transferring the Tithe of the Tithe, which comprises 10% of parish income, to the school instead of outside charities.

Last year's parish subsidy was \$147,000 with roughly 162 students. The coming year subsidy of \$120,000 is for a projected enrollment of 208 students.

The Religious Education program is also operating at a \$50,000 deficit.

The board thanked the Finance Council for their work.

The board reconvened following prayer.

Discussion Items

Budget

With the reduced parish subsidy, the current school budget has an \$85,000 shortfall after a tuition increase.

There is still some question about if our parish is financially supporting parish children in the school at the same rate outside parishes are asked to support their children who are enrolled at St Luke's school. Those numbers will be calculated and presented to Finance Council.

The board entered into executive session at 8:36pm.

The board exited executive session at 8:56pm.

The 2019-2020 staff and faculty salary schedule was motioned and approved.

Chrissy Eberhart, FSA president was present at the meeting. The board asked her if, in her capacity as FSA president, she could commit FSA raised funds to the school budget for the upcoming school year. She agreed to do so. FSA expects to raise roughly \$60,000.

The board next analyzed different tuition increase scenarios. The board compared St Luke's tuition rates to other metro diocesan schools and gave special consideration to the multi-student discount rates.

A motion was made to set tuition rates and was approved. The tuition for the 2019-2020 school year will be:

1st student: \$3200

2nd student: \$3000

3rd student: \$2850

4th student: no additional tuition

The tuition increase, budgetary cuts and the FSA funds allowed the budget shortfall to shrink to \$9600.

The meeting adjourned after prayer at 10:40pm

Minutes submitted by Margery Pierce, School Board Secretary