

## **RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2021**

**\*In Person Meeting at RLS**

**Voting Board Members:** Tim Farmer, Michelle Wood, John Whatley, Bee Persson, Linda Cook, Bill Xenakis.

Note: Bill Xenakis was elected to complete Jacin Suskin's term.

Not Present: David Robison, Neil Porter.

**Non Voting Board Members:** Tom Kolb, Chris Johanson, Pastor Jonathan Blanke

**Staff:** Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan

Presiding Officer John Whatley opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Michelle led the opening prayer. Introductions were made around the room as we welcomed Bill Xenakis to the board.

### **Principal's Report**

Our year ended strong as we continued to maintain our Healthy Together protocols. We will be reviewing the protocols for next school year with recommendations from our Governor and the State of NC in mind.

Tom has had several really good interviews for 3 major positions needing to be filled, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and MS slot. There is an Aide position open as well. Tom will then look to fill some specialty positions after the main positions are filled. He hopes to issue new contracts the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> as well as returning staff contracts. In the future we may want to look into the call process for acquiring teachers. We offer really good benefits but salary often comes into play when compared to other schools. Our teachers tend to really like the freedom and creativity they are allowed within the structure of educating our students. So overall, we are in a good place for teacher positions this next year. God has provided a good crop of candidates.

Our parent surveys will be looked at in more detail at our July meeting, but basically all numbers are up. Most parents seem to be pleased by our protocols and what we provided for this school year.

Since standardized testing was not able to be done last year, this year's numbers will give us a good new baseline for the school. Results are being reviewed and all looks good thus far.

Pastor Tim Fangmeier will present RLS with the MALIM grant certificate on June 27, 2021. We have already received the \$47,000 check to be used for our Playground Improvement Project. Side note: MAHLIM has now used all its funds and will go defunct.

### **Admissions and Marketing Report**

Rosie reported we are down 6 students from last month's count giving us a total of 169 students at this point for next school year. Note our total this past year was 162 students. We have also had an increase in applications recently giving her to project a potential total close to 175 - 180.

At this point, Before and After School Care discussion came up. Tom felt that offering this option for parents would help to bump up our Jr. K class which is still under enrolled for next year. He also feels it is a significant service to our families that we can safely offer once again. Rosie confirmed there have been many inquiries about this offering. The Board agreed we can safely offer Before and After Care again after not having it at all this past year. Rosie will send out notification to parents tomorrow, 6/18, and post it in the next Lions Tale to ask parents to indicate if they would utilize this service next year to get a true gauge of interest before we put our plans together. This will also give this information to parents for consideration before their first tuition payment is due.

Garett Nigg met with Helen Gibbs and others from the PSO to discuss the Playground Improvement Project. We will not be able to complete this project over the summer as hoped due to playground equipment being back ordered. We will get everything scheduled once we know the equipment is available. In the meantime, the playground will remain as is so the students have a space for recess until demolition really needs to start for the new construction. Rosie will work on requesting a rendering of what the new playground will look like as requested by the Board.

Rosie reported our PSO has been just awesome this year. They raised a lot of money really fast and offered lots of fun stuff for families throughout the year.

### **Treasurer's Report/Budget**

Tim reported the Budget Draft for next school year is still being worked on. It will look similar to the preliminary one already shared with the board and church council, but with some adjustments to numbers. The budget will be addressed at our July Board Meeting.

2020 – 2021 has been a good year for our current budget. We're looking at about \$120,000 in surplus. Surplus goes into retained earnings for special projects and as a reserve for lean years. We are in such good shape in part to not having to spend as much as we thought on COVID related expenses.

When a question was asked about one of those covid expense items, Tom indicated we would be keeping the plexiglass installed at Barb's desk in the school office and would be evaluating the plexiglass in the lab and classrooms to determine if they are still useful or needed in those areas.

John shared several thank you notes to the board from teachers and staff regarding bonuses. Then he reminded us all of our next meeting (planning session) on Thursday, July 15, 2021 from 4pm – 8pm.

Presiding officer John Whatley adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

*Minutes submitted by Substitute Secretary Michelle Wood*