

RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023 6:30pm
In Person Meeting at RLS

Voting Board Members Present: Mackenzie Sottini, John Leuenberger, Fonda Ingram, David Miller, Michelle Wood, John Heilman, Chris Johanson, Bill Xenakis
Absent: Neil Porter

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Bob Unger, Carey Reynik
Absent: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Staff Present: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan, Robin Hester

Presiding Officer Mackenzie Sottini opened the meeting at 6:29pm and John Heilman led the opening prayer.

Principal, Admission & Marketing Report

Bob Unger gave a security update. He met with a Cary Police Officer who reviewed our space and offered some suggestions. From those suggestions we are exploring the installation of a shatterproof window treatment for all first floor external windows. We will also restrict building access to one point of entry when the students are here. There were also many ideas regarding door locking. We will explore and evaluate costs of hiring a company to come in to do a risk assessment and offer ideas.

The school accepts parent usage of authorized Kid Transportation Services when they are unable to pickup their children, but Lyft and Uber are unacceptable ride options for minors.

Rosie Creasy gave an overview of the administrative team meeting held April 13th for planning purposes in finishing out the 2022-2023 school year and beginning the 2023-2024 school year.

Rosie shared that our Google reviews are good and social media helps us create interest from potential student families. She is working hard to make sure we are out there digitally. She will review our website and look for a content creator for Christian schools to get a preliminary cost to update our site so we can budget for this service. We currently have 160 student contracts in hand for next year.

Robin Hester shared information from a recent presentation of Merlyn Mind from Elizabeth Hefner. Merlyn allows a teacher to be anywhere in their classroom and have full access to their laptop remotely and interactively. She was given costs for one unit or discounted cost if purchasing four units together. There were several teachers that really liked this concept. Robin asked the board if the school could test Merlyn in one classroom. Having hardware budget available, the board thought it would be a good idea to test the usage of one unit.

Teacher Rep News

Cary Reynik reported that teachers are happy. As they await news of what’s happening leadership wise at RLS, they are looking for consistency and a vision of where they will take the school. Teacher retention and raises are important issues.

Treasurer’s Report

David Miller commented that all gets more certain regarding the budget as we get closer to end of year. There are no current issues with the budget.

Of note as we look at a first draft 2023-2024 preliminary budget, we see an increase in Classroom Expense to accommodate another kindergarten class and in Staff Development to bring more and even better development programs to our teachers.

MOTION: John Heilman moved to approve the first draft of the 2023-2024 budget. John Leuenberger seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Board Member Vacancies/Extensions

John Heilman and Bill Xenakis will head the nominating committee. We currently have two members rolling off the board in July.

Teacher Service Anniversaries

Bob informed us the school and church will celebrate our RLS Teacher/Staff Anniversaries with recognition at all church services on June 4, 2023. They will also receive a stipend based on their years of service.

Lori Jones	15 (16) years	Penny Hancock	5 (6) years
Barb Storum	15 years	Jennifer King	5 years
Bob Unger	15 years	Carey Reynik	5 years
Amada Powell	10 years	Deb Mahan	5 years

Presiding Officer, Mackenzie Sottini adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Michelle Wood.