

**RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 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, Neil Porter.

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

**Staff Present:** Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan, Robin Hester.

**Guests:** Pam Barnette - RLS Technology Instructor, Tom Kolb - Facilitator for School, Youth, and Family Ministry Southeastern District LCMS.

Presiding Officer Mackenzie Sottini opened the meeting at 6:31pm and led the opening prayer.

**STEM Summer Program**

Pam Barnette shared a video of our student and teacher teams, their created STEM projects, and their presentation at the NCTies Conference in Raleigh in March. There were eight elementary and eight middle school students who worked for six weeks on these projects. They are excited to learn more about STEM.

Pam and Chris Johanson told us about a STEM Teacher Academy on July 24 -26, 2023 that our school has been invited to participate in. A 4-person team will be assigned a coach and work in small groups. They will receive training and curriculum resources to aid in teaching and incorporating STEM concepts in their classrooms. We have several teachers that have expressed interest in attending this workshop.

Pam shared that some of our elementary teachers already incorporate STEM lessons in their classroom as Pam also does in technology class. Teachers are hoping to expand STEM lessons into our Middle School.

**Facilitator for School, Youth, and Family Ministry Southeastern District LCMS**

Tom Kolb was invited to attend our board meeting to share his perspective and advice about moving forward in our search for a new principal for RLS. He wants to give us hope, be realistic, and be a resource for our school.

The number of requests for Called teachers and principals alike far outnumber the available Called candidates for these positions. So why should we look to Call when there are so few candidates? Because we are Lutheran. We have an identity as a Lutheran school. It is not required that we have a LCMS Lutheran principal, but there are potential concerns for the school if we do not. If our Lutheran identity becomes

questionable, our accreditation could be affected, and our tax status could be questioned.

Tom talked a bit about what it requires to go through the Colloquy process and become a Lutheran Called worker as well as a newer course of study called 'The Seminar'. The Seminar offers non-Lutheran teachers/educators further understanding of the Lutheran faith but does not lead to becoming a Lutheran Called worker.

Given the difficulties we have experienced in our extensive efforts to hire a Called Lutheran Principal without success, and due to the large number of positions available versus available candidates, Tom suggested it may now be time to widen our search outside the Called Lutheran Candidates.

### **Principal, Admission and Marketing Report**

Bob advised us he is planning an on-site planning meeting in April for staff. They will discuss the remainder of this school year and begin planning for the 2023-2024 school year.

Rosie reviewed her admissions numbers for this fall. She has 152 contracts in hand and 24 in various stages of the pipeline. She also has new MS visitors coming in next week.

Bob and Robin have a good vision of what our faculty looks like for next year.

Rosie reviewed the activities from Lutheran Schools Week. She announced that 7 new members (MS) will be inducted into the NJHS on March 17. A list of the planned Summer Camps was shared.

A new program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders has been implemented. 'Prayer Buddies' will pair each student with a teacher or staff member who will take time to develop a more personal relationship with the student, pray with them, support them and listen to concerns.

#### **The following dates were shared:**

March 14	Cultural Arts: Atlantic Coast Theater
March 15	Covenant Players
March 17	Early Release/NJHS Induction
March 22/23	Lake Country Choir/Band
March 31 – April 10	Early Release/Spring Break
April 25-27	Iowa Testing
May 5	Early Release
May 5	RLS has Talent (6pm)
May 16	Fine Arts Festival
May 23	EOC Testing (8th Grade)
May 24-26	8th grade Washington DC Trip
May 29	No School ( Memorial Day)
May 31	8th Grade Graduation

Wanting to share all the things RLS has been able to accomplish this year (2022-2023) even without a fulltime principal, Rosie distributed a list of RLS successes.

### **Teacher Rep News**

Carey reported there has been some concern expressed about where things are headed and consistency in classes. There was also a bit of upset over the timing of news shared with others before the teachers. This particular announcement was emailed for distribution to teachers first, but unfortunately didn't happen in that order. The Board values this feedback and has great appreciation for all our staff.

### **Treasurer's Report**

David Miller reported that the budget is tracking well with a few tweaks. Tuition income decreased due to a withdrawal refund. Application income increased. He is keeping an eye on the Substitute Teachers/Buyback/Bonuses Expense line item.

Bob Unger signed the contract to have the gym floor redone again this summer. It is scheduled for July 17-19, 2023. The gym will be out of commission July 17-22. This is a Building Repairs, Facility Costs expense and is \$90 more than last year.

### **Board Member Vacancies/Extensions**

Mackenzie reviewed what year of 'board service' each board member was finishing up this year. Neil Porter and Michelle Wood will be stepping off the board after our July 2023 meeting. The board can look to acquire 2 new members. Mackenzie will need someone to lead that search committee.

### **Committee Updates**

John Heilman handed out a rough draft of "How can I make a donation" to one of our Endowment Funds.

*Presiding Officer Mackenzie Sottini adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.*

*Minutes submitted by Secretary, Michelle Wood.*