

Resurrection Lutheran School Board
Open Session Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2023 6:30pm

Voting Board Members Present: John Heilman, Chris Alladin, Fonda Ingram, Bill Xenakis, Pat Smith, Larry Cameron, Chris Johanson
Absent: Mackenzie Sottini, John Leuenberger

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Robin Hester, Carey Reynik
Absent: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Staff Present: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan

Vice Chairperson John Heilman opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and Fonda Ingram led the opening prayer.

RLS Website Presentation

Rosie introduced Brian Lee who is going to update and improve the functionality of the RLS website. Mr. Lee has extensive experience with web design and has been in IT for over 15 years. He shared a sample of what the website could look like.

“The new website will serve as a multi-functional platform that not only attracts new families but also enhances the experience for current students and staff, ultimately contributing to RLS’s long-term success.”

The desired outcomes of the update are to improve identity perception, increase enrollment, enhance family engagement, and streamline administrative functions. One of the goals is to be at the top of the search list when prospective families click on private or Lutheran schools in Cary.

The church and preschool will be linked with the RLS website so there’s uniformity between the three.

Principal’s Report

Robin Hester reported Lumio software training for the new Smartboards has taken place. Teachers have begun practicing for MAP testing that begins next week. The tests are 30 - 45 minutes long and students will be tested in Reading, Math and Language Arts. These tests will give parents/teachers clear data and will feed into IXL for more practice. Students will be tested again in January and then in May.

Eight staff members are attending the SED LCMS conference in October, five are teaching in the sessions.

We had a need for advanced math classes in middle school and the rigor is better. The middle schoolers are headed to Morehead City tomorrow for outdoor learning experiences.

Admission and Marketing Report

Rosie Creasy reported we have 177 students (120 families). Two new students will begin next Monday, one in JK and another in Kindergarten.

Rosie attended a Cognia conference to research more information about accreditation.

Cognia is changing their rules and will re-accredit every 6 years instead of 5. Our SED LCMS Executive Director of Schools and Youth (Tom Kolb) will contact a representative to see if that changes our accreditation timeline, though it's most likely to remain in 2025.

Due to other private schools in the community having early re-enrollment, and parents requesting RLS do the same, Rosie would like to open re-enrollment earlier for the 2024-2025 year, possibly the week after Thanksgiving. If so, tuition needs to be decided at October's meeting.

The goal for next year is 180 students. There is a need for more 6th grade students from outside RLS.

Bill Xenakis said each teacher /staff member has a prayer partner and to please let them know you've received contact from them. He commended Robin and her staff for a professional Parent's Night presentation and a great team building event with the collective Bar B Que at Ritter Park.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Alladin reported that due to an increase in enrollment and less need for financial aid, there is an Annual Fund surplus in the 2023-2024 April budget.

Deb Mahan noted, RLS has been given two matching grants from anonymous donors, one @ \$10,000 and one @ \$20,000 to help with safety improvements.

Deb proposed a change to forgo the annual fund this year, and put the money towards a "Safety Fund" to take advantage of the matching grants.

Motion

John Heilman motioned to remove the \$22,500 Annual Fund from the 2023-2024 budget income and move it to a restricted "Safety Campaign" for the 2023-2024 year.

Pat Smith seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried.

Motion

Larry Cameron moved to approve the 2023-2024 Resurrection Lutheran School budget with the above changes.

Fonda Ingram seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was noted we need to make sure our teacher salaries are keeping pace with the market.

Change in Calendar Meeting Dates

Due to scheduling conflicts, October - December meeting dates are at 6:30 pm as follows:

Tuesday, October 17

Thursday, November 16

Thursday, December 7

Committee Updates

Pam Barnette and STEM coaches will present a sample of what they've been doing with STEM in the classroom at the November meeting.

Vice Chairperson John Heilman adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Chris Johanson