

RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes 12/15/20

***Online meeting**

Voting Board Members: David Robison, Tim Farmer, Michelle Wood, Linda Cook, Jacin Suskin, John Whatley, Bee Persson, Neil Porter

Non Voting Board Members: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Tom Kolb, Chris Johanson
Staff: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan

Presiding Officer David Robison opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Michelle led the opening prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Tim brought the Board up to date on budget highlights. Operations are within budget in all expense categories. As planned, expenses are running above last year's numbers due to Covid impacts, notably in hardware, software, facilities and supplies.

On a positive note, The Annual Fund is running \$4k over last year's receipts. More donors are giving while previous donors are continuing to support as well.

Principal's Report

Tom related the update on Covid; Governor Cooper spoke today on the current status statewide and Tom touched on the details from the Governor's press conference. There is a CDC travel advisory for the Christmas holiday time period. Fortunately, RLS has not noticed an uptick in any Covid cases from Thanksgiving weekend. At this time, Tom is moving forward with a Christmas email message that will be consistent with the message that was communicated to RLS families for Thanksgiving weekend.

Tim asked Chris about the current 'temperature' of the teachers on operations, and whether some were asking about a two week break after Christmas. Chris stated that there is a curve of opinions once again on a delayed return for students. Separately, Chris noted that two students returned from distance learning to attend in class, and it has been a positive for everyone. The Board agreed that RLS shall maintain plans to return to in class learning after Christmas break.

Bee enquired about the source used for the Covid protocol at RLS. Tom referred back to the Healthy Together plan that is the master document for all operations in this time of Covid. He reiterated that consistency of response is necessary and RLS must be careful in overstepping bounds as it relates to families' individual decisions.

Additional funding support from the RLC PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) was briefly discussed. The RLC Council will be notified of areas eligible for more RLS expense coverage under the plan.

Intramural sports will continue to remain in hiatus given the Covid situation.

On a positive note, the National Junior Honor Society Induction was held (in a very socially distanced ceremony).

The RLS School Year 21/22 Calendar was shared. Tom motioned to approve the Calendar, Tim seconded the motion.

Vote: RLS 2021/2022 Calendar approved as presented.

Tom brought forward some challenges in morning carpool; he's going to make some minor adjustments to compress the AM entry time period, and spread out the PM pickup as there is a bottleneck of traffic.

Admissions Report

Current enrollment is 162 students, and going forward Rosie expects we will be at capacity for next year. Discussion followed on what, if any, capacity limitations there may be as we are expecting Covid restrictions to lift. Specific planning will be required for K and first grade given demand for spots. Notably, there are a handful of families that pulled out of attendance this year, and would like to return.

Rosie coordinated the release of an RLS promotional video produced by RLS graduate Anna Porter.

The PSO led a well received event for local Shut-ins. Packages, calendars and Christmas cards were prepared and distributed. Helen Gibbs was instrumental in a successful PSO fundraiser that will fund teacher gifts for the end of the year.

RLS Survey

Dave shared the results of the recent Survey. Overall response was very positive- details were presented for all Board members for review.

Other/General

Tim brought up the Curriculum Fee for discussion and requested we review the definition to properly account for the fee in the RLS budget. It was agreed by the Board that this fee should be properly called a Curriculum and Technology fee. Technology spending has increased and that is a more appropriate label going forward.

Presiding officer David Robison adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Neil Porter