

## **RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes 9/17/20**

### **In Person meeting held in RLC Social Hall**

**Voting Board Members:** David Robison, Tim Farmer, Michelle Wood, Neil Porter, Linda Cook, Jacin Suskin

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

**Staff:** Rosie Creasy

Unable to attend: John Whatley, Bee Persson

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

#### **Principal's Report**

Tom updated the Board on school operations. Carpool logistics have been time consuming, but staff and teachers have been diligently ensuring all procedures are followed properly. Chris and Robin have taken on more tasks in their administration liaison duties, while Deb and Dianne have been very supportive. Tom is mindful to the concern of overburdening staff and teachers. He wants to ensure that the team does not succumb to burnout.

Three upper grade students are returning from distance learning to in class learning.

Tom told the Board that he is confident that, if needed, the school staff and teachers are prepared to implement the Red Plan for distance learning.

An elementary school aide has separated; a long term substitute aide is in place until a permanent hire is completed.

Discussion: Chris discussed the challenges of managing both in class and distance learning. She believes that logistically speaking, operations and instruction flow has ramped up quite well. She also wanted to note that parents have been very flexible in the startup curve for the new school year. Assistance from teacher aides has been key to running a productive learning environment.

Tom noted flexible learning spaces are being used. The 'Art Grotto' outside has been used for pop up classes, weather permitting.

## **Admissions Report**

Rosie continued to stress the importance of maintaining contact with RLS families, while a brief summary of the student count was shared for Board review.

She told us that the PSO had a very successful online meeting with many participants. The PSO Care Team is working to promote family engagement in this challenging time of social distancing. Of note, Deb Mahan is serving as the Treasurer for the PSO.

Finally, Rosie praised the positive attitude of the staff and parents alike. She has appreciated the responsiveness of people in general with the guideline implementation and their patient respect for staff and teachers during the startup of school this semester.

Discussion:

Jacin proposed a parent outreach effort to continue our goal of family engagement and proactive communication. Goals of the outreach plan include fostering channels of communication while seeking feedback and input from parents of RLS students. Several minutes of discussion on this topic followed and the Board members agreed to personally support this program.

A successful Zoom online session with parents of RLS students was held by Pastor Blanke.

Linda spoke with Laura Fisher on professional development; specifically a safety program titled 'Conscious Discipline'. Given the load on teachers and staff, they agreed the timing is not optimal at this point, but the program is ready and available for self learning.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Tim told us there is a Federal Court injunction to halt ESSER Fund administration, and we may not receive this funding disbursement. Jacin shared some background on the subject. There is hope this is only an administrative delay, but more clarity is needed and Tim will pursue this.

Budgetary expenses are coming in as expected with some categories predictably running higher than last year, ie. classroom supplies and facilities expenses (plexiglass) to be expected.

Jacin proposed that at some point in the future, consideration should be given for a scholarship to be offered in support of RLS' diversity goals. Discussion ensued regarding funding and the Board agreed that given budget uncertainties, commitment in the near term must be balanced with other needs at the RLS. The scholarship proposal will be revisited.

Tim then presented the final Budget as all admissions contracts have been accounted for at this time.

Michelle Wood motioned to approve the Final Budget as presented by Tim. Motion seconded by Jacin.

**Vote: Budget for 2020/21 Fiscal Year approved.**

Discussion: Dave opened preliminary talks on RLS Tuition schedules for 2021/22 fiscal year. Input from Board members ensued with the goal of guiding our detailed planning session at the coming meeting.

Presiding officer David Robison adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Neil Porter*