

## RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2021

\*Online meeting

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

**Unable to attend:** Bee Persson

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

**Staff:** Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan

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

**Board Discussion:** Dave brought forth the details for our July meeting date. After discussing conflicts that many Board members had, we agreed that 4pm on August 5th would be set to replace the normal July Meeting date.

Dave then motioned to extend all current Board member's terms that would normally expire in July to be in service through August 10th, 2021, Tom seconded.

***Vote: All sitting Board members whose terms were to expire in July 2021, will now be extended through August 10th 2021. Approved by the Board.***

### **Nominating Committee Update**

Neil opened by presenting the dynamics of our Board and term situations. Several members stayed on in extended terms last year, while some Board members that may have chosen to roll off this July are offering to extend. There are pros and cons to the term lengths and number of Board members, and discussion ensued.

Neil motioned, Michelle seconded to revise the language on the Board Policy Manual to read:

***The Board shall preferably consist of between eight(8) and twelve(12) members. These shall consist of eight(8) or nine(9) voting members and up to four (4) non-voting members. The nonvoting members shall consist of: (1) a RLC Pastoral advisor, (2) the School's Principal, (3) the Board Secretary if position is not filled with a voting member of the Board, and (4) a teacher representative.***

***Vote: Approve changes to the language to adjust Board member numbers in the policy manual. Approved by the Board.***

Michelle and Neil have had conversations with three candidates for the Board, with one or two additional candidates under consideration. There will be more details in the next meeting to share.

### **Principal's Report**

Tom spent a few minutes bringing the Board up to speed on the Covid issues involving a middle school family. The situation involved care to ensure the Healthy Together protocol was followed and to prevent further issues.

Tom shared that teacher Kathy Siemen would need to take a break from her responsibilities as a teacher to attend to a personal challenge. Several faculty members are stepping in to assist. Tom stated that he is very appreciative of the efforts of several teachers to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

The RLC Council budget meeting was postponed. The proposed RLS budget was delivered to the RLC Council but has yet to be presented.

Standardized testing in the time of Covid was revisited; Tom reminded the Board that there was no Iowa testing last year, but it will be done this year. A staggered plan for testing will be implemented for facility limitations.

An indoor graduation ceremony will be held this year in the Family Life Center to ensure spacing needs. At this time, plans for the end of year Chapel service are being discussed, but are not yet formalized.

### **Admissions and Marketing Report**

Rosie told the Board that 175 student enrollment agreements are in hand, with 7 contracts still outstanding. An additional 21 applications are on file.

Barb and Rosie are working through details on end of year planning.

The PSO has been very helpful in leading the planned playground major renovation project. Rosie, Helen Gibbs and Deb met to discuss financing. The total cost is estimated at \$90k to \$110k. The project will be separated into grading/site prep and equipment acquisition and installation with fundraising efforts focused on purchasing the equipment. Bids expected on 4/23/21. A request for MALM grant funding has been submitted for the project.

The family connection team of the PSO has made plans for an effort to 'onboard' new families at RLS. Also PSO members are leading the care package deliveries for Mrs. Siemen.

Rosie shared that small group tours for prospective students will be held this summer.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The budget draft was submitted to the RLC Council, but as mentioned the meeting was postponed. Adjustments will need to be made to the budget for hardware/computer investments. A staff development grant did not come through as hoped, so we are a bit over budget in that category. The RLS current budget overall is in very good shape, some expenses are down as Covid operations resulted in some unintended (positive) consequences on normal outlays.

Notably, staffing/benefits expenses will need some adjustment as there are unknowns at this time. Technology needs are still being quantified. Also, Tim instructed the Board that some restricted funds are available for the playground facilities major renovation project.

Presiding officer David Robison adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Neil Porter*