

RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021

***Online meeting**

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

Unable to attend: Bee Persson, Linda Cook

Non Voting Board Members: Tom Kolb, Chris Johanson

Staff: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan

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

Principal's Report

Discussion on changes to next year's plans for classroom capacity was led by Tom. Robin Hester is leading the effort for the coming school year in this regard; more to be shared in upcoming meeting sessions.

A "moderate" return to sporting activities, including Cross Country at RLS is expected for the Fall, but more needs to be done to formulate and communicate how this will be implemented.

Information Technology teachers are now holding learning sessions with elementary students. Facilities and equipment sanitization is always a focus. Art classes are rotating instruction into the science room for Middle School students with the same thorough cleaning regimen between classes. Tom discussed the option for 'summer makeup' instruction to be held.

Given the potential for families to travel over Spring Break, Tom has communicated the 'two week buffer' suggestion for extra precaution.

Tom shared that most of the faculty have had their first dose of the Covid vaccination, with second doses scheduled accordingly.

Financial Assistance Update

Tom and Deb touched on the Financial Assistance notes- good news as all Opportunity Scholarship 're-ups' are approved. Two new students are in pending status for the same.

Admissions and Marketing Report

Rosie was pleased to share that 173 student contracts are in, 7 are still out and expected to be received. At this point, expectations are for 175-185 students enrolled at RLS in the Fall 2021. Notably, siblings and returning families have been accommodated.

Family/student engagement with RLS is a continued focus with some virtual events planned for the Spring. Some RLS Moms have expressed interest in mentoring and connecting with new families to help foster relationships; these efforts are important to support our community well being within RLS.

Plans for upgrading the playground facilities at RLS are underway. Helen Gibbs is coordinating estimates and there will be a focused fundraising effort to maximize support for this needed improvement. Ballpark estimates suggest 30-40k is needed for the project, and a MALIM grant application will be submitted May 1st. Chris noted that running space for the children should be strongly considered in these plans.

Treasurer's Report

Tim provided an update telling the Board that phone and network cost allocations with RLC is now settled. A brief discussion on Covid 'sick days' and how to cover these costs in the budget was brought forward. Fortunately, this issue has been very minimal.

The **Budget Planning** process, specifically the first pass draft has been initiated. Deb will work through projections with Tim. The RLC Council is wanting to see budget numbers soon.

Board Membership Committee

Board Member Nominations- Michelle and Neil volunteered to lead this effort to identify qualified candidates for membership on the RLS Board. Dave shared that both Linda Cook and John Whatley plan to rotate out of Board membership with the end of their service terms. We extend Linda and John much appreciation for their commitment over the years to RLS!

The plan is to identify and interview prospects in April/May, followed by selection. The Board will request that new members attend the July meeting before formal installation at the regular August meeting.

Presiding officer David Robison adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Neil Porter