

RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
***In Person Meeting at RLS**

Voting Board Members Present: David Robison, Tim Farmer, Michelle Wood, Bee Persson, Bill Xenakis, Tom Farr, Chris Johanson.

Absent: Neil Porter, Mackenzie Sottini

Non Voting Board Members Present: Bob Unger, Pam Daniels, Pastor Jonathan Blanke.

Staff Present: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan, Robin Hester.

Presiding Officer David Robison opened the meeting at 6:33 PM. Michelle Wood led the opening prayer.

Public Comments

Dan Mitchell addressed the Board virtually from Pennsylvania. In summary he shared his appreciation for the decisions made and what RLS has been able to provide over the past 18 months but asked as we look at our Healthy Together plan to consider factors beyond covid numbers regarding the school's masking policy.

Jason Davis addressed the Board virtually from his workplace in Durham. Jason is also concerned about mask mandates on children and would like more parent input into this decision.

Masks

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion on masking. Many situations, scenarios, knowledge, liabilities, recommendations from guiding entities, survey questions, and metrics were all discussed. Our current position is that this is still an evolving situation that should be looked at month to month as we consider when it might be appropriate to safely go with a mask optional policy. Something will be written up and included in the next Lion's Tale and questions will be added to our mid-year survey so that we may hear from a greater parent population than just those who have written letters or addressed the Board. The requirement to wear masks inside the building will currently remain in place. An email will be sent to Dan Mitchell and Jason Davis to thank them for their comments tonight.

2022-2023 Academic Calendar

Bob provided copies of the proposed 2022-2023 Academic Calendar for the Board to review.

MOTION: Tom Farr moved to approve the proposed 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. Tim seconded.

VOTE: The motion passed. The 2022-2023 Academic Calendar has been approved.

Principal's Report:

Bob reports our protocols are working well and that he is encouraging the teachers to use the outside spaces as much as possible.

Robin gave a sports update. They had their first basketball game today. During active practice and active game play (5 on the court) players have the choice of mask optional if they are fully vaccinated and have a signed permission slip from parents. The players on the bench, coaches, and audience must remain masked.

Bob provided upcoming dates and events.

Admissions & Marketing Report:

Rosie reported that our enrolled number of students is 185 and should remain the same through the end of the year. She feels like there may be a little confusion with parents about what is due now to re-enroll for next year as we are doing this a little earlier than in prior years. She will put something in the Lion's Tale for clarification.

An Admissions Team has been formed to review all applicants. It includes a member from each grade grouping.

The playground renovation is complete and will open on Monday 11/22 with a blessing and dedication ceremony.

Deb reported the Annual Fund giving campaign is going well. Luther Lion was present for the kick-off. They are really encouraging the kids to participate in "10 acts of kindness" to earn points for their class competitions.

Rosie said the school had collected a lot of coats for the Note in the Pocket project.

Treasurer Report:

Tim reported that other than janitorial expenses being up a bit all is good with the budget.

Mid-Year Survey

As in past years we will send out mid-year surveys. We will add a couple of questions specifically relating to masks. Surveys will go out November 22 and close on December 6. This will allow the feedback to be available for our next meeting.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 9, 2021.

*Presiding Officer, David Robison adjourned the meeting at 8:41pm.
Minutes submitted by Secretary Michelle Wood*