

RLS Board Open Session Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2022 6:30pm
In Person Meeting at RLS

Voting Board Members Present: Mackenzie Sottini, John Leuenberger, Bill Xenakis, Fonda Ingram, David Miller, Chris Johanson

Absent: Michelle Wood, Neil Porter

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Bob Unger, Pastor Blanke, Carey Reynik

Staff Present: Rosie Creasy, Deb Mahan, Robin Hester

Presiding Officer Mackenzie Sottini opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and Chris Johanson led the opening prayer.

Mackenzie introduced Carey Reynik (2nd grade) as our new Teacher Representative to the Board.

Principal's Report

Bob Unger reported we've had a great start to the year.

The Opening Chapel Worship Service was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 17, with all grades (except Kindergarten- staggered entry) in attendance. A large number of parents and family members also attended in person. Thank you to Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Zach for leading it. A decision was made to live stream Chapel at least once a month. It can be found on the RLC "YouTube" channel.

This weekend (August 20th and 21st), at all church services, Tyler Timm will be installed as a Called Teacher.

Beginning next month, reports from the Principal, Dean of Students, Admission /Marketing and Administrative updates will be consolidated into one report to be presented at the monthly Board meeting.

Car Pool

Morning drop-off went well. Afternoon pick-up will return to the pre-COVID practice of dismissal from the gymnasium.

Staffing

We have a number of new staff members, full and part-time.

Robin Hester and several returning staff have contributed a large amount of time to help them acclimate, feel prepared and comfortable in their respective classrooms.

Mentor Program

Robin Hester explained, the first Mentor Meetings were held this week with mentors: Pat Smith and Chris Johanson in JK-2, Pam Barnette in grades 3-5 and Candace Moore in

Middle School. They'll meet once a month with the teachers, to encourage, support and help where needed.

Physical Education classes will meet twice a week this year, with Daniel Ellis as our PE teacher. He will be mentored by Leigh Carter (former RLS PE teacher).

Our new MS Science teacher is Jennifer McCuiston. She will teach 7th and 8th grade MS Science classes. Stephanie Lee will teach the 6th grade MS Science class.

Back to School Night

Mackenzie and Bob encouraged Board members to attend "Back to School Night " on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 6:30 pm. Fonda Ingram volunteered to speak for the Board at the meeting.

This event will also return to the pre-COVID format: assembly meets in the gym prior to being dismissed to their respective classrooms.

The Student and Staff Handbooks are in the process of being updated.

Bob will address the important items in the Parent Handbook at the Back to School Night presentation, Thursday, August 25, 6:30 pm.

Healthy Together

The Healthy Together document has been condensed to 2 pages, and can be found on the RLS website.

Field trips

We are permitting off-site field trips.

Food and Visitors

Visitors are allowed in the classroom – they must be invited or receive pre-approval.

Food for birthdays, etc.

We allow food, etc., but recommend that it be store bought and individually packaged; parents/caregivers need to inform the office (teachers) of the allergies of their students in the classroom.

"Hot" Lunch

PSO is working with My Hot Lunchbox again this year for hot lunch deliveries.

Uniforms

Dress code will be emphasized and students will be sent to the office for parents to either pick them up, or bring in a change of clothes if necessary.

This year's verse is "Soaring to New Heights" in reference to Isaiah 40:31. T-shirts and Spirit wear will be available.

Important Dates:

August 17 - Start of school (8-17/18 Kindergarten staggered entry)

August 18 - First full day of school

August 19 - Full day of school for the entire student body

August 20/21 - Installation of Tyler Timm as a Called Teacher to RLC/RLS

August 22 - Specials, enrichment, electives begins this week

August 25 - Back to School Night

August 27/28 - Blessing of the Backpacks and Learners (RLC)

September 5 - Labor Day (Holiday)

September 10/11 - Blessing of Teachers/Helpers/Coaches/Learners (RLC)

Admission and Marketing Report

Rosie Creasy reported they had a great celebration to open the school year.

RLS has a total of 167 students. The 30 - 35 new students are fitting in well. Mackenzie asked how the new students found out about RLS. Rosie replied it was mostly word of mouth. Bob sent out a welcome to all families. Postings are being made on social media accounts, i.e., Facebook, Instagram.

T-shirts designed by Lindsey Hignite, were made to celebrate our 20th year. Helen Gibbs is creating a new design for our Spirit Gear this year.

RLS is getting ready for Before and After School Care. Though several teachers are assisting, we're still looking for people to help with After School Care.

The PSO has an opening for the office of President.

Marybeth Childers is helping to locate RLS Alumni and find out what they're up to, for Alumni News articles.

The Teacher Tale and Lion's Tale are working out. If the board has something to put into it, let Rosie know.

After school Dance Club and Art Club will begin soon.

John asked if there's a ratio where we split classes? We cap around 20 students, usually split if there are more. TA's are added where needed in the younger grades.

RLS Student News

Audrey Lapham, 8th grader, came to RLS last year after moving to Cary from Oregon. She was part of US Figure Skating's National Development Team but lost some ground during the pandemic. Audrey has recently begun working with two coaches from Raleigh who will help her regain her status on the team.

One of her coaches is a former RLS mom, Janet Ford. We have coordinated an early dismissal for Audrey once a week to facilitate her pursuit of excellence on the ice.

Fenet Goro, RLS 5th grader, has written and published a book called The Fossil and Paleontologist.

Principal Call Update

Mackenzie Sottini reported the committee got together and identified 14 - 16 people of interest. Some wanted dual Calls, (both spouses are Called, principal-teacher) but, only a principal Call is available at RLS now.

Four candidates responded noting interest. They are graduates of the Concordia University system, currently principals or assistant principals, and all are out of state. The committee will conduct Zoom interviews once everyone's school year has begun.

A question was raised about accreditation. We are accredited with the National Lutheran Schools and Cognition.

Treasurer's Report / Budget

David Miller thanked Deb Mahon and Tim Farmer for helping him with this month's budget. Nothing requires board action this month.

David noted 2 things in the budget: the Computer Software line item is more than 50% of its allotted budget due to the payment of 3 year subscriptions and is considered normal. The Building Repairs, Facility Costs line item is almost 15K due to the expense of replacement carpet in grades 3-5.

1 /3 /5 Year Goals

To make sure the goals set at July's meeting are met, Mackenzie reviewed board committees and their members. She reminded committee members to make monthly updates as progress is made.

Chris Johanson brought up the idea of an academic Honor Roll in grades 3-8. It was decided to discuss this idea with teachers and administration to see if it's feasible, and what grades it might pertain to. No further details were discussed.

Pastor Blanke announced a group of people from the church will be going on a mission trip to Uganda, in February 2023. He would like a partnership with the school so teachers can know more about it. Information will be presented at the September 6th teachers meeting.

The first RLC financial push for the mission trip will be in October.

*Presiding Officer Mackenzie Sottini adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.
Minutes submitted by RLS board member, Chris Johanson.*