

## **Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School**

### **School Board Minutes**

**December 11, 2013**

**Attendance:** Fr. Tony O'Neil, Rick Epple, Kirk Geadelmann, Danny Patterson, Rhonda Eurich, , Dr. Constance Krocak, Linda Johnson, Molly Price-Munson, Jesse Neve, Mary Ament-Johnson, Tara Collins, Jen Reier (PTO), and Bob Chilsom (Parish Council)

**Absent:** Mike Reier and Cheryl Hibbard

#### **Opening Prayer – Fr. Tony**

- Father Tony shared the story of Esther.
- We are in this place and God has a plan for our parish and our school – our job is to not mess it up, and to ask God to guide us.
- Lord help us to see and open our ears to you
- We need to remember to approach all we do with Faith

#### **Minutes**

- 11-7-13 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no edits

#### **School Update – Dr. Krocak**

- NWEA testing
  - Our Fall 2013/2014 scores were better than our 2012/2013
  - Subjective feeling from both Connie and Melisa is that they are feeling good about student progress
  - Need a plan to address those students whose scores went down from previous – Connie agreed to take a look at this – invite parents to contact the school if they have questions or concerns.
  - Need to value every parent and their opinions and concerns
- Communications:
  - Add Cheryl and Linda to the school distribution list so they receive all school communications
  - Add a call to action to all communications reminding parents to call or stop by with any questions or concerns.
- Curriculum
  - Continuing to look at the mathematics and science programs – Math Expressions, Discovering Algebra, Rational Number Project
  - Had a discussion regarding online/interactive learning to provide additional opportunities for kids outside of the classroom. Discussed possibility of sending parents a suggestion list of site they could visit – took discussion offline to committee (Rick, Cheryl, Linda, Connie and Danny)
  - Need to ensure we have the right amount of licensed teachers
- Classrooms/Staffing
  - Variable amount of ability in each of the multiage classrooms
  - Scheduling and staffing is always work in progress and there may be more changes coming to accommodate needs
  - We need to ensure we put our teachers in a place to succeed
- Early School Closing
  - Change was made to policy and procedures and an update email was sent to all parents notifying them of the process going forward

- OLL+
  - Doorbell has been rewired, so now rings in the after school room
  - Senora Neve helped out over the Christmas break
  - Need to look at program needs, costs going forward for 2014-2015 school year
- Cornerstone (Mary)
  - Team met with Zach from Image Trend to discuss School Information System (SIS)
  - Discussed adding the “alert” add on to give us full coverage – cost is \$2.50/student - \$240/year – board approved
- Extra-curricular activities – Linda
  - Linda provided a detailed handout of ideas to expand our after school offerings
  - Need to ask people to volunteer – people will step up if asked
  - Board to review for discussion at a later meeting
- Fundraising Update – Kirk
  - Good dialog with Parish Council
  - Mike Greene will be leading the Alumni Campaign – need to be sensitive to money raised last year and be sure to reach out to new audience – Goal is \$100K
  - Starlight Bash – scheduled for Fri., February 14 – Goal is \$50K
  - BLAST – need to sign contract with Bodeans – goal is \$50K
  - Received an anonymous \$15K donation
  - Kirk will be sending out a matrix to outline the events, event chairs and fundraising goal
  - Each event will have a pre-approved budget
- Marketing/Enrollment Update
  - 96 enrolled on 1/2/14
  - With loss of current 8<sup>th</sup> grade – we will be at 88
  - Subcommittee formed (Rick, Molly, Kelly and Connie) to finalize 2014-2015 enrollment information, fees, tuition and etc.
  - Need to move away from emergency messaging and focus on longevity and sustainability – give people confidence
  - Need to really differentiate ourselves – what do we have, what do we do that really makes us different – you can get a good education at any of the schools in town, so why OLL?
  - Need to have more visibility within the parish – encourage kids to wear uniforms, lector and etc. Seeing our kids in action is a great sales tool.
  - Need to speak to the benefits of multi-age classrooms, small class sizes, Christian/Catholic education, spiritual leaderships
  - Speak to the success of the students who have attended OLL – our GPAs not only while at OLL, but subsequently at Holy Family, Westonka, college...
- Survey – Tara
  - Discussed need to send out survey to all parents prior to State of the School meeting to get real-time feedback from parents
- Where are they now?
  - Reach out to Channel 5 and the Star Tribune to do a follow up story
  - Maybe invite them to the State of the School meeting?
  - I believe it was Molly and Jen who said they’d take a lead on this.
- How we Lead matters
  - Assume positive intent – we do have challenges, but we need to work to bring forward solutions and recommendations
  - Negativity is out there – we need to address concerns, put a plan in place to address them and move forward – there is a reason this school was saved!