

# **St. Luke the Evangelist School Board Meeting Minutes**

## **Special Session**

### **April 12, 2016**

#### **Call to Order**

This special session meeting of the School Board was called to order at 6:36 p.m. at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church by President Licia Pettit.

Members present: Kayla Curran, Kayla Crann, Licia Pettit, Amy Thompson, Travis Funseth, Dennelle Hogan, Shawn Althaus

Members absent: None

Staff present: Tonya Eaton, Father Larry

#### **Second Section of Kindergarten**

Tonya has a meeting with Superintendent Bonday and Denise Mulcahy at the Diocese. She will send a formal letter to Bishop when a decision is reached. We have three new students registered in the upper grades and a fourth is likely due to the closing of Granger Assumption School.

Travis presented a spreadsheet with income and expenses with adding the second section, cost per student, salaries, benefits, etc. The income exceeds expenses at a higher rate with adding the second section. The parish contribution would be lowered.

Licia read questions from parents. Would kids have the same number of hours with specials teachers? Yes. How will trailers work? Would kids be there all day and potentially feel excluded from the school? The pros and cons of trailer classrooms was discussed, as well as upgraded trailers and modular options. We need zoning approval from our neighbors to have trailers. Specials could go in the trailers first, then middle school. Might be good for middle school students to have their own space in the portables. The marketability of our school with portables was discussed.

The Parish Finance Council responded positively to the proposal at their last meeting. A new capital campaign will start in two years and that campaign will be focused on the new school building. The current rate of tithing from our families is \$350 per family per year. This needs to be around \$700 per family. We now have 122 new families registered since June and anticipate more families will register this fall. We need to discuss master plan with Dick Johnson. Just looking at classroom square footage, a 12 room building would cost \$1.5M.

We have all prayed on this decision and we are hearing "yes" from parents, from the vision meeting, from finance council. We feel we can cautiously move forward and upon approval from the Bishop, announce a second section of kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year.

A motion to create a second section of kindergarten for the next school year was approved.

#### **Classroom Capacity**

The board looked over a spreadsheet with class size capped at 24 students as opposed to the current cap of 25. The pros to this would be: easier groupings with even numbers, wouldn't need another table in kindergarten and first grades, more space in classrooms, teachers are in favor of it as are parents.

This sets us apart from the public schools, which caps at 25 but some of which are up to 28 students per class in upper elementary grades.

A motion to set our class capacity at 24 students was approved.

**Next Meeting**

Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Margery Pierce