

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Board of Directors Meeting
February 15th, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Michelle Hajdukovich at 6:00p.

Present: Bill Arnold; Daniel George, Michelle Hajdukovich, Fr. Tom Lilly, Brian Ross, Aaron Sperbeck, Anne Gore, Deacon Dave Van Tuyl, Shane Locke, Rys Miranda, Dr. Kevin Jones, Dan Sarlitto, John Harmon, Kara Moriarty, Jim Seeberger

Absent: Danna Hoellering

Members immediately broke into their small working groups (Finance; Development/Marketing/Relations; Lumen Forward) for 20 minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:22p. Father Tom opened the meeting in prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of the Agenda

Michelle Hajdukovich moved to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Shane Locke.

Approval of the Minutes

Michelle moved to approve the minutes from the January 18th meeting as written, Bill Arnold seconded the motion.

Archdiocesan Perspective

John Harmon, Chancellor was unable to attend the meeting. Michelle read a brief statement from John which encouraged one and all to look for the upcoming edition of the North Star Catholic which would likely feature a Lumen student. John's statement went on to thank all for their hard work and efforts during Catholic Schools Week.

Words from our Sister School - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS)

Principal Dan Salitto Mitigation started by noting the school's COVID plan had changed twice in the past 10 days and currently reflect that in classrooms, masks are optional in preK - Grade 6. Students must still bring a mask to school as they are still required in large gatherings and shared spaces.

Enrollment for the 2022-23 school year is looking very good. Sixty-five percent of existing families have re-enrolled for next year already and there are 40 new applications in as well. The desired number of students is 180 and right now the school is sitting at 179, so Dan is very pleased. Dan has also sent "Staff Intent Letters" out to gauge staffing levels for next year.

There's one new personnel update - Barbara Corso, Office Manager will be leaving and returning to the public sector in her field of engineering. Peggy Denehy who has served under two other St Elizabeth principals will be coming back to replace Barbara.

Fundraising dollars continue to trickle in but Dan is going to pursue this more aggressively next year. The recent raffle held in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus brought in \$13,000 which was quite nice. Dan also entered into a new deal with ASD's Family Partnership Homeschool Program which will allow parents to get partial reimbursement for non religious classes for tuition, for non religious classes and activities. And finally, reaccreditation materials are being gathered in preparation for that process which will be coming up next year.

Lumen Principal's Report

As written and attached, highlights include Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held this Wednesday and Thursday with no school this Friday and Monday. The 10th grade class will be on retreat in conjunction with St. Benedict Youth Group and Confirmation students. Thanks to a great group of parents, there will be an event focused on girls and women's health based in Catholic teaching on Wednesday, February 23rd. There will be "senior night" focused on our graduating basketball athletes on February 24th, with regionals and state coming up in March.

In other sports news, the basketball teams both competed in the Crowley Classic at Su-Valley in Talkeetna; the Boys claimed 1st place and the Girls, 2nd. Of particular note, senior Brenden Gregory scored 51 points in the first game, the highest high school record since 2009. Later he hit his 1500th point for his overall high school career which puts him in a very elite standing among high school athletes statewide. One of our homeschool seniors, Tim Bennett also hit a major milestone, hitting his 1000th point. Junior High Volleyball wraps up over the weekend with one final jamboree. Way to go, Archangels one and all.

Reaccreditation is quickly approaching, Brian and Debbie Brewer met with the Cognia lead who offered some preparation guidance, Brian is confident the school will be well prepared for that process which will be at the end of March.

Enrollment/re-enrollment has opened and we are currently at 77% return for existing students and 16 confirmed new students.

Mission Moment

Michelle asked Anne Gore to give an update on the LUMENary Drive and the Fundraising Auction/Gala.

LUMENary: While officially over and the drive's goal met, donations continue to trickle in which continue to bolster the bottom line. Busy with Gala, Anne noted she hadn't run any reports within the last couple of weeks to see what the change/increase might be. At the next meeting she'll provide an update.

GALA: Phew! The "No Place Like Home" online auction was held Saturday, February 12th and by all accounts, was great fun and likely a financial success as well. While expenses are still being calculated which will of course affect the net proceeds, the event's gross ended up just

about \$1,400 less than last years. This was frankly somewhat unexpected as the financial trend for second year online events has been a downward one. Anne is working with Danielle Rybicki to get income and expenses reconciled by the end of next week and will be able to provide a full accounting to the Board at the next meeting.

School Financial Report

Danna Hoellering, Finance Manager was unavailable so Bill Arnold presented on the discussions of the Finance Committee, detailed below.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Recruitment and Retention

Shane Locke noted that the Committee didn't have much to discuss, but did talk about a return of international students. COVID put all student visas on hold for two years, but there is the potential of two 8th grade students joining us next year, one from Vietnam and one from Cameroon.

Finance

The Committee looked over the financial statements with Bill Arnold leading the discussion. Those documents showed that through the end of January, the reserve surplus went up again and was currently at \$11k. Bill was surprised that utility costs were staying in check despite the winter we've had to date. Fr. Tom joked that whatever savings there are in utility costs will be eaten up by snow plow bills! Bill asked about the roof and the snow load, Fr. Tom noted that it's rated for an extraordinary amount of weight - so no worries at all about the snow load.

Bill noted we would be heading into budget season within a few weeks for the 2022-23 school year. Work would start by the end of February/beginning of March, would continue through March and be presented to the Board in April. It would then be finalized in May and presented to the Archdiocese by June 1, 2022. Bill wondered if by year end there was still a surplus, if we could put some in reserve for the school, especially for maintenance as well as create a 'rainy day' fund.

Fr. Tom asked if Anne or Rys had any questions. Rhy confessed he's a percentages guy, and noted that we're tracking higher than budgeted but wondered if things slow down in the summer months to 'balance out' (the answer is yes, per Father Tom.) He also wondered if tuition income was on a 10 or 12 month budget (the answer is 10, per Anne, August - May.) There was a bit of discussion about past finances and the challenges of former/leaner years.

Lumen Forward

Aaron Sperbeck noted that planning continues for the upcoming April 23rd Spring Speaker Series, featuring Jared Staudt, Director for Mission at the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic School System. The presentation, with its working title "Learning and Living the Faith" will run from 7p-8:30p on Saturday, April 23rd. Aaron and the committee will be reaching out to Clay and Laura Butcher to talk about live-streaming the event again, as well as marketing ideas. Fr.

Tom agreed to host a dinner before the event. Aaron noted he will be contacting Anne to address other details such as speaker payment, etc.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

COVID protocols, off ramping, opened up discussion. Brian - as is happening at SEAS, all over the state, people communities starting to make decisions. As we approach spring break - what do we want to start looking towards.

Aaron noted that his girls don't care. Deacon Dave noted his son welcomes the mask and would likely continue to wear. Brian shared discussion with SLB. "Noah - asthma - if we have to wear a mask, we'll do that; athletes; others - lets just drop." Kara - would prefer to have optional but will wear if they have to. Mask fatigue, depends on research you read re: effectiveness. How does this impact our retention and recruitment, have we lost family because of families? Anne noted one family.

Fr. Tom asked for clarification on staff meeting. Brian wanted to know if board was comfortable with changes being made. Shane - ok with mask optional. Dan - make sure any change is defensible if change is made to remove. Overall - good with discussing new direction. It's a gamble but very few are masked - Michelle - yes to being flexible and looking at new data. Shane wondered how many kids out.

Finally with regard to COVID policies and recruitment/retention, Anne was able to share two pieces of information regarding families and their choices moving forward. Both were families who were not in agreement with masking protocols; one family said continued masking would make them seek another school; the other family had chosen to re-register regardless of the policy.

PASTOR COMMENTS

Fr. Tom offered his thanks to Anne for a job well done with the Gala. He gave additional shout outs to Deacon Dave and Deacon Kurt who gave very generously throughout the night. Deacon Dave took the time to read a very nice text that Deacon Kurt shared during the Gala about the importance of supporting Catholic schools. Father Tom gave a last shout out to Dr. Kevin Jones for securing the April speaker, Fr. Tom had just received a copy of his CV and was so impressed, he can't wait to start advertising the event with his brother priests!

In taking a quick look at the financials, Fr. Tom noted the overages in building maintenance were for long overdue projects, namely new floors in the bathrooms and renovated teachers lounge. His last comment was that while the school was sponsoring (in conjunction with St. Benedict's) a retreat for 10th grade students, he had placed some stricter COVID mitigation plans on the event, namely having it be an evening and day event only, no overnights at St. Theresa's Camp. He noted there had been pushback on this from some individuals and he was happy to share the information he had put together to address this.

CLOSING PRAYER // ADJOURNMENT // NEXT MEETING

Michelle added a final thank you to all who had been able to attend the State of the School back in January. She thought congratulations were in order for Brian but particularly to the students addressed different areas of focus: ASAA Sports Agreement; Student Government; Debate and Bioethics; UAA Advantage program. Kara noted that she was unable to attend the State of the School in person and tried to watch online but that the audio in particular was quite bad. Looking ahead to graduation and relatives potentially watching online, what could we do about that? Two other points she wanted to address: 1) She wondered if there was going to be a drama production this spring; and has the school looked into anything in the new infrastructure bill that might be applied to Lumen?

To her first point, Fr. Tom accepted full responsibility for this for the bad State of the School audio, the system had been tested using equipment that is used to stream Christmas and Easter masses but that in the end, a switch wasn't flipped which should have been which threw the system out of whack. To the second point, Brian indicated that only two students had signed up to do drama this spring and that then Mrs. Robertson (the Drama Coach) had the surprise opportunity to adopt a second baby. The families and Mrs. Robertson had a conversation about this - Brian was happy to discuss this off-line. The third point re: infrastructure spending was not addressed but Anne Gore will look into this.

The meeting concluded in prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and adjourned at 7:15p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th via Zoom.