

**LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**School Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 17th, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Michelle Hajdukovich at 6:04pm. Fr. Tom introduced Audrie Williams, prospective Board Member; he then opened the meeting in prayer.

**Present:** Bill Arnold; Michelle Hajdukovich, Fr. Tom Lilly, Brian Ross, Aaron Sperbeck, Anne Gore, Deacon Dave Van Tuyl (virtual), Rys Miranda, Jim Seeberger, Marcy Adkins, Kara Moriarty, Kevin Jones, Kathy Gustafson (virtual) Shane Locke, Daniel George. Guest Present: Audrie Williams

**Absent:** John Harmon

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Approval of the Agenda

Michelle Hajdukovich moved to approve, it was seconded by Aaron Sperbeck after Fr. Tom made a small addition to the Pastor Comment section.

Approval of the Minutes

Michelle Hajdukovich moved to approve the minutes from the April 19th meeting as written, it was seconded by Aaron Sperbeck.

Archdiocesan Perspective

John Harmon was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

1. "On behalf of the Archbishop, a special thank you to everyone for a wonderful school year, may everyone enjoy a blessed summer break!
2. John Harmon retires in June. The liaison/oversight position for Catholic schools has been incorporated into a new Faith Formation position which can be found at [www.aoaj.org](http://www.aoaj.org). Please share with anyone you know who might be interested in the position.
3. The Reetz Foundation. Monies are available for families with need. Relevant information attached.
4. The fall AOAJ inservice for teachers is 8/16/2022. The Archbishop plans to celebrate 9 am Mass on that day, to which school board members are invited."

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

Kathy Gustafson, former and now current SEAS Principal noted she was happy to be in attendance and was back in the Principal role after being asked by Fr. Scott.

Kathy noted she feels like she came back in the nick of time, pulling kids through end of year testing, getting to see the Lumen graduates coming back to walking the halls and sending both them, and the SEAS 6th grade graduates off.

The school has just one or two seats available in select classes with most classes full + waitlists for the 2022-23 school year.

The school has hired a new Admin. Assistant, Nicole Branch. Kathy is recruiting for 1st and 3rd grade teachers and has several before/after school positions available as well.

### Lumen Principal's Report

As written and attached, by Principal Brian Ross.

There were several questions:

- 1) What percentage of current graduating SEAS class are coming to Lumen. (Answer: 50%, 10 of 20)
- 2) Do we do an assessment of new students coming in? (Answer: Yes, every student is required to complete a math and language arts assessment exam. Kathy Gustafson asked how in general SEAS kids do, the answer is great. Very few if any present with any deficits.
- 3) Jim Seeberger wondered if there was a way to help bring kids "up" who might be testing low, compared to others. (Answer: Yes, we provide a Summer Skills session for both math and language arts, for Jr. High and High School students.)

### Mission Moment

This month's Mission Moment was presented by Brian Ross and was a discussion/presentation of entries submitted for the school crest competition. Brian first presented all 12 entries, then focused on 2 "semi-finalists." The final design will incorporate elements of both, and will be ready for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

### School Financial Report

Fr. Tom welcomed Marcy Adkins, St. Benedict Pastoral Assistant who had accepted the job as Finance Director for the school. Marcy notes that she has a bit of a learning curve with online tuition management systems and is getting oriented to school finances. She states she will address questions as best she can as she continues to get settled.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### Recruitment and Retention

Shane Locke - nothing to report.

### Finance

Finance Committee Chair Bill Arnold notes a surplus of \$34,000, but that more than half of that is a donation to pay down debt, and the Reetz Foundation Grant. A Workman's Comp audit was recently conducted resulting in an additional \$5,900 credit to the budget. A surplus is always nice to establish maintenance reserves! Worth additional mention: the Gym will be paid off at the end of this fiscal year.

### Lumen Forward

Aaron Sperbeck thanked everyone for their assistance and attendance at the Spring Speakers Series event, he heard nothing but positive feedback. Would like to suggest finding and locking in a consistent date for both the fall and spring series. Aaron also noted a couple of ideas for future topics - Parent financial planning for post secondary education, 529's, boutique practices to help with scholarship applications, etc.

### **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS**

Michelle reiterated her thanks for a successful Speaker Series event as well. Thank you to Clay and Laura Butcher for live stream; Kara Moriarty for hosted beer garden; Kevin Jones for speaker coordination. The fall event was locked in for Thursday October 6th and the presenter will be the keynote speaker from the National Catholic Education Association's spring conference, attended by two Lumen teachers. The presentation topic is "Protect Young eyes" and focuses on social media from the Catholic perspective. While there is a significant cost (\$6k) this would be a very impactful and relevant topic for students, teachers, and families.

Rys Miranda wondered if there might be other groups interested in participating and contributing to the cost. Brian and Michelle agreed that this was worth pursuing.

Michelle then discussed the Family Partnership issue that has become a hot topic of discussion both in the media and among parents. SEAS has agreed to become a vendor but Lumen has not agreed to do so. Of concern is that it is unconstitutional using state/federal dollars at a parochial school, even if the curriculum for certain classes has been reviewed and declared secular. Discussion around this included if faith is infused with teaching, is it disingenuous to call it a secular class? Brian noted that this was not a "Principal" decision but was seeking Board Counsel, and suggested waiting for clarification from the State Attorney General and Archdiocese.

Kara noted that there was a perception among some that as a school we are unwilling to share our curriculum. And that this could potentially be a good opportunity for parents to have tuition support. Brian notes that he was going to be meeting with Family Partnership but would like to wait for input from other sources as well, before moving forward, but that it was unlikely to be resolved prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Audrie Williams clarified how home school programs worked with regard to parent directed learning. Dan George, who was working for then State Senator (now Governor) Mike Dunleavy and had history with the legislation that affords this opportunity said that in his opinion, the school should not become a vendor and instead stay true to the mission and constitutional division between Church and State.

Kevin Jones added that there are numerous (and interesting) theological models with regard to private school funding models (e.g., Opus Dei comes to mind) and that there are often more "...than one way to skin a cat."

Michelle closed the discussion by requesting that if members were interested in being part of a subgroup to further explore this, to please let her know.

### **PASTOR COMMENTS**

Father Tom introduced Audrie Williams, parent of 8th grader Aurora. Asked to give a reflection on the school, Audrie had only wonderful things to say. She said her daughter feels welcomed, loved and SEEN. After a nasty fall and broken collar bone during the school year, outreach by one of Aurora's teachers just to check in was very touching and made an impact on Aurora for sure. Audrie noted that other Lumen students were very respectful of her younger children when they were visiting which she appreciated very much. She further noted Aurora is challenged academically by rigorous classwork, and overall she (Audrie) and her husband are very, very happy with their decision to enroll Aurora at Lumen.

Fr. Tom thanked Audrie for her wonderful testimony!

Fr. Tom then extended his condolences to Dan George, on the passing of his friend, boss and mentor, Representative Don Young. Dan thanked Fr. Tom and noted there had been a tremendous outpouring of support during this time of tremendous loss.

Fr. Tom noted his appreciation for both Kevin Jones and his work in getting Jared Straudt up for our April Speaker Series, and for all who contributed to the night's success. The event was a nice way to end the year on a high note, and reiterated his deep appreciation to everyone for their time and commitment to the school.

The next scheduled meeting for the Board would be during it's annual retreat (held jointly, with the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Board) and if anyone has items they would like included on the agenda, to let Fr. Tom know.

### **CLOSING PRAYER // ADJOURNMENT // NEXT MEETING**

The meeting concluded in prayer to St. Michael the Archangel then adjourned at 7:18p.m.

The Board will be on hiatus for the summer, then hold its Annual Retreat on Saturday, August 20th.