

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Michelle Hajdukovich at 6:01 via Zoom.

Present: Bill Arnold, Michelle Hajdukovich, Fr. Tom Lilly, Marcy Adkins, Audrie Williams, Marcus Holmquist, Deacon Dave Van Tuyl, Anne Gore, Brian Ross, Shane Locke, Daniel George, Kathy Gustafson, Liz Loeffler, Jim Seeberger, Debbie Brewer

Absent: Dr. Kevin Jones, Aaron Sperbeck

Michelle moved to amend the agenda to reflect Kathy Gustafson speaking first and leaving early to attend to other commitments. Marcus Holmquist seconded the motion and the agenda was amended.

Kathy noted that things were going great at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Returning student packets had gone out and half were already back. With the number of siblings coming in, things could be a tight squeeze! Parent/teacher conferences scheduled for February will be canceled and there will be full days of instruction instead, to make up for snow days. Teachers were working with parents to meet outside of the normal conference time.

Plans for Catholic Schools Week were coming along. There's a talent show and spelling bee scheduled and kids are very excited about it. Administration is working on the 2023-24 calendar. There will be an open house on February 5th despite there being few slots for new students. There will be a 2022 Alumni recipient awardee named tomorrow after Mass.

The November Gala was a huge success and final numbers show approximately \$170,000 net revenue!

At the conclusion of Kathy's update at 6:08p, members broke into small working groups (Finance; Development/Marketing/Relations; Lumen Forward) for 15 minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:22pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of the Agenda

As above.

Approval of the Minutes

Aaron Sperbeck moved to approve the minutes from 12/17/2022, it was seconded by Shane. Bill Arnold offered an amendment that the minutes be changed to reflect he was not present at that meeting and that the egg nog being served during the meeting must have been good! The minutes were amended and approved.

Archdiocesan Perspective

Liz Loeffler, Director of Catholic Schools provided an update on activities at the Archdiocese. She recognizes that all schools are busy preparing for Catholic Schools Week. Additionally she noted that the Archdiocese is looking into the use of public dollars for private school tuition (e.g., Family Partnership/homeschool funding issue) and she was hopeful that guidance would be forthcoming in the near future.

Another policy being addressed at the Archdiocesan level was specific to working with families whose children identify as transgendered. The AoAJ is hoping to have some internal guidelines drafted that schools could share with families should the need arise. Among others, Fr. Tom and Liz will be a part of the committee who will be looking at this issue.

Mission Moment

Debbie Brewer, Dean of Academics and 27 year Lumen teacher presented this month's "Mission Moment," addressing academics from the larger, overall perspective.

Following directions from COGNIA after last year's reaccreditation and as the Dean of Academics, along with the Principal she's convening a team to look at all subject area curricula, as well as core sequencing, pacing and classroom textbooks. Last year Theology had been reviewed; Math would be this year and Language Arts/Social studies next. Debbie notes that no department 'escapes' with any and all stones unturned during these reviews.

Anecdotally, students report feeling well prepared for standardized testing, which she reports having a love/hate relationship with! While Lumen students routinely test 40 points higher with math with statewide peers; they're not as high as she would like.

Lumen Christi Principal's Report

As written and attached.

Brian encouraged all the men to join the "Frozen Chosen", an F3 men in fellowship group who meets at 5:30a on Fridays to work out!

School Financial Report

Marcy is happy to report things going much better with Blackbaud Tuition Management. Money coming in regularly and having 3 new students at semester is helpful. Marcy will be revising the way expenses are recorded for the "supply" line item, so shifts don't appear so extreme. To date, December billing from the Archdiocese for payroll expenses had not yet been posted which can skew numbers a bit. Marcy will be meeting with Nicole, the Business Manager at St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton and hoping to come up with a way to approach the AoAJ with regard to timeliness.

Those small issues aside, Marcy notes it's a pleasure to have great numbers and a solid bottom line.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Recruitment and Retention

Catholic Schools Week - Shane noted that coffee and donuts (to be served to parents during drop off on Friday, February 3rd) are covered. Shane will be reaching out to Fr. Tom with regard to the teacher appreciation luncheon also on February 3rd. Fr. Tom encouraged all Board Members to attend the all schools Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Finance

Bill Arnold noted that the bottom line remains robust which is always good news. New students certainly help, as is the Lighting the Path to the Future income. The school maintenance fund now has \$37k in it which will be helpful as we project maintenance needs coming down the pike. School athletic fees and Archangel Attic proceeds continue to be higher than normal which also helps the bottom line. The budget review for the next school year will begin soon and culminate in April/May. ing on COLA, supply chain, LTP, budget review April.

Lumen Forward

Aaron Sperbeck is traveling and not in attendance so Michelle quickly noted that planning for the March Speaker Series was coming along. This spring's topic will address College/Career Planning - Financial Planning, PSAT preparation, applying for colleges and scholarships will all be a part of this discussion.

Brainstorming for the fall has already begun with the opioid epidemic being one topic for consideration.

Development Report

Anne Gore indicated the Gala was just a few weeks ago and the Gala Team was in full on GO mode. Table and ticket sales have been brisk; donations were still coming in and Anne is hopeful that the Lumen auction will follow the trajectory of the SEAS auction and be a record!

Enrollment will open for SEAS 6th grade/rising Lumen 7th grade families on January 30th, as it will for existing Lumen families as well. Registration for new families will open on February 13th.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Michelle encouraged members to attend as many Catholic Schools Week events as possible, please talk to parents and engage! She views this as a great time to get more involved with parents in a way that we haven't been able to in the past few years because of COVID.

The “Family Partnership/Homeschool” subcommittee looking at the issue of public funds being used to offset private school tuition will be convening over the next month. The AoAJ will be working with its legal team to review this issue; volunteer parents; principals, board members will also be meeting to discuss and examine the pros/cons; do we want/can we do; talking with representatives at Immaculate Conception Elementary and Monroe Catholic in Fairbanks, etc., etc., etc. There will be a true delving into this issue over the next 30 days with a recap to be provided at the next board meeting.

Deacon Dave Van Tuyl apologized, signed off early due to another commitment.

PASTOR COMMENTS

Fr. Tom noted that he was thankful to all who were assisting with the funding issue as outlined above. He is confident that uniform guidance for all schools will come together. He notes that the ‘long arm of the government’ attached to Catholic schools is likely the last thing we want, but wonders if the ICS/Monroe model offers guidance?

Fr. Tom then offered profound thanks for all of the hard work done by the Principals, teachers, board members, etc. We’ve come a very long way! Please keep recruitment of new members in mind as it’s never too early to begin filling positions.

CLOSING PRAYER // ADJOURNMENT // NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st via Zoom. The May meeting will be moved to the 9th (2nd Tuesday) vs. the 16th (standard 3rd Tuesday) due to staff travel. Both April and May meetings will be in person.

The meeting concluded in prayer to St. Michael the Archangel led by Brian and adjourned at 7:11p.

*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,
By the power of God,
Thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits
Who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*