

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Board of Directors Meeting
April 18th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Michelle Hajdukovich at 6:02. Members immediately went to break out rooms (Finance, Marketing/Retention, Lumen Forward.)

The meeting was reconvened at 6:31p.

Present: Michelle Hajdukovich, Fr. Tom Lilly, Aaron Sperbeck, Marcy Adkins, Marcus Holmquist, Anne Gore, Brian Ross, Daniel George, Jim Seeberger, Kevin Jones, Liz Loeffler, Kathy Gustafson, Daniel George, Bill Arnold

Absent: Audrie Williams, Deacon Dave Van Tuyl, Shane Locke

The meeting opened in prayer led by Father Tom.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Michelle Hajdukovich made a motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Aaron Sperbeck.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Michelle Hajdukovich made a motion to approve the minutes from March 21st as written, it was seconded by Anne Gore.

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSPECTIVE

Liz Loeffler noted that everything looks like it's going very well across the Catholic school spectrum. Campus ministry programs in all the schools look strong and it was great to spend time with Lea Bouton (Lumen Christi) and Carolyn Bradshaw (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) at the annual NCEA conference in Houston.

The question was asked if there was any new information regarding the allotment issue and use of homeschool (public) funds to payment of private school tuition. Liz noted there was nothing new from the Archdiocese as the matter is now in court which will in large part determine how programs and families will be allowed to allocate funds. This will be an ongoing issue to watch.

WORDS FROM OUR SISTER SCHOOL

Things have been busy with the 6th grade play and 6th grade retreat. 5th and 6th graders are very excited to be coming to science day at Lumen on the 27th. On May 4th the school will host its' spring musical and art show and on May 8th, Lumen seniors will be coming to walk the halls for the annual cap and gown parade. Enrollment numbers look great, there are a few spots in

the 6th grade and all other grades have waitlists.

Kathy touched briefly on the proposed change in school start time with the Anchorage School District and that it would be something that the schools would have to discuss if ASD does modify their start time.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As written and attached. Many good things are happening at Lumen!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Marcy notes that the 2023-24 school year budget is due to the AoAJ on April 28th. The budget team has gotten a good jump on it and it should be wrapped up soon. She's been meeting with representatives from Blackbaud, the school's Tuition Management System to work on outstanding tuition issues but otherwise things are moving along nicely with regard to finances.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Marketing/Development/Retention - Shane Locke was not present // committee did not meet.

Finance - Bill Arnold noted he had reviewed the Budget Worksheet provided by Marcy prior the the Committee viewing it. As written, it includes a \$250 per student increase in tuition; no "Lighting the Path" (LTP) funding; no parish subsidy; and no deferred maintenance savings. It did include income from the LUMENary Drive at \$75k (same as FY23) and \$150k gross from the February '24 Gala. Wages include one new teacher plus increases for existing staff and an 8% increase in expenses across the board to account for annual inflation.

Fr. Tom noted that there would likely be parents to raise the fair question - why with an increase in both the number of students and income generated through fundraising would there be an increase in tuition. The answer is that it's important to protect the small cushion that we do have for a number of reasons: It would be a mistake to assume record number of donations each year; it allows the Parish not to have to carry the school as it has in the past (allowing parish funds to be used for parish needs); keeps fundraising goals manageable; allows for an increase in teacher salaries, in an effort to bring them more in line with ASD teachers; and removes the "first/emergency responder" calls (e.g., LTP funding.)

Lumen Forward -

Aaron Sperbeck noted that attendance was way down both online and in person at the March 28th event and feedback was a little disappointing as well. He reflected that perhaps marketing was not as robust as for prior events? He further reflected that past events have featured both panels and individual speakers and with a seeming downward trend in interest and attendance, that perhaps topics and/or presentation format needed to be re-tooled. He suggested a thoughtful consideration of both would be helpful as plans are made moving forward.

DEVELOPMENT/ADVANCEMENT

Anne notes that we had two final sponsorships clear for the Gala so the official gross is over \$250,000! (\$250,429 to be exact.) Small invoices continue to come in for expenses so it's hard to pin down an exact net, but it remains somewhere around \$221k.

Anne notes enrollment is stressful! All grades are full with the exception of 12th and there are

active waitlists for grades 7-10 with more parents who call every day. Last week Anne gave a tour to a family with a family whose daughter is in the 6th grade next year but they wanted to be 22first on the list for the 2024-25 school year.

Summer projects include completing the Annual Report and having it mail out as soon after the close of the fiscal year as possible. The goal is to send the Annual Report sent prior to the LUMENary ask which is a flip-flop from the past several years.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Michelle asked all members to note on their calendars the annual Board of Directors retreat which is scheduled for Saturday, August 26th. She then focused on the budget for her official “board chair comments” and encouraged dialogue on it.

Kathy noted that even at SEAS it was a challenge to retain good teachers with what Catholic schools are traditionally able to pay. While new teacher salaries are at approximately 80% of what their public school peers make, we are able to offer targeted raises, tenure, a more controlled environment with lower student:teacher ratios, etc.

There was a brief discussion on ways to use the overage from this year and Brian noted it would be directed to LED lighting for the building; a small school endowment; potential renovations for the St. Scholastica Snack Shack (necessary to bring into compliance); chemical resistant science tables for classrooms.

There was no other discussion on the topic, so Michelle noted it was out for review and to please provide any input in writing to Marcy, soon. The budget will go before the Parish Finance Council on May 4th and then to the Archbishop for final approval.

MISSION MOMENT

Michelle Hajdukovich provided background on an issue being discussed in relation to our sports program - namely moving the basketball program from division 1a to 3A. The primary factor to support the move is that Region 1A is essentially dissolving with some who predict it may be completely dissolved within 2 years. In the slow dissolve process, tournament bids will likely go from 2 to 1 and smaller communities may combine and move to 2A which will likely be absorbed by the Northern Division. Having had a very long basketball career throughout high school and college, Michelle notes that in dealing with ASAA, it's better to lead from the front vs. have ASAA decide for us. There may be some growing pains as the school begins competing against different programs but it's less about winning and losing and more about growing/establishing a strong and competitive athletic program.

Of note, this would be for 2024-25 and the current coaches are fully on board with this as they look to build grassroots teams and a sustainable format for the department. Cook Inlet Academy, one of Lumen's few remaining competitors, is looking to move to 3A as well.

PASTOR'S COMMENTS

Fr. Tom noted that there were three parents who had expressed an interest in being on the Board: Nancy Wingate; Mary Stephens, and Chris Tzvetcoff and one non-parent - Harriet Furton (new to Anchorage, former Catholic School Science Teacher). Please forward any thoughts/comments on candidates to Fr. Tom prior to the next Board meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER // ADJOURNMENT // NEXT MEETING

The meeting concluded in prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and adjourned at 7:31p. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th via Zoom.

*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.*