

Lansing Christian School
LCS Association Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2007

Present:

Board Members:

Troy Sprague
Gary Seelye
Chris Royce
Joy Witte
Sal Durso
Doug Harkema
Neil Mac Vicar, Secretary
Ken Granger, Chair
Ron Hansen

Staff:

Barry Koops

Association Members [List Available Upon Request]

Teachers
Interested Parties

Call to Order:

Ken Granger convened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Devotions and Prayer:

Rev. Bouyer offered opening devotions and prayer which focused on Esther 4:12 - 14.

Opening Faculty Reports:

- A] Mrs. Hofman presented a new concept she is implementing with the high school choirs — an Intergenerational Choir. Adults of various ages will participate with the high school choirs.

- B] Mr. Kleyn discussed his students' Christian growth through the study of the novel Lord of the Flies. Mr. Kleyn offered examples of student writings in response to the novel.

Minutes:

By unanimous consent, minutes of the May 7, 2007 Association Meeting [prepared by Shari Nussdorfer] were approved.

Hidden Treasures Report:

Renita VanSolkema presented a report on the status of Hidden Treasures:

- A] The Grand Opening for Hidden Treasures was Friday, November 9, 2007. Revenue generated the first weekend exceeded expectations. Favorable revenue has been generated since the opening weekend. Renita forecasts great success for Hidden Treasures.

- B] There is a need for a constant stream of volunteers. Renita put out a call for volunteers and recognized all those have volunteered up to this point in time.

Superintendent Reports:

Recognition:

Dr. Koops formally recognized and complimented the leaders and all volunteers who participated in two recent fund raising endeavors — the LCS Grand Charity Event [June 2007] and Hidden Treasures. Dr. Koops encouraged all LCS Association members to support and volunteer with Hidden Treasures and with future fund raising events.

Attrition Report:

Using available data, Dr. Koops reported that the attrition rate for LCS in the current fiscal year was approximately 13%. He will improve the data collection methods to measure the attrition rate. Although there is room for improvement, he indicates that the rate is not a significant concern at this time. The most significant area of student loss was between pre-school and kindergarten. He intends to improve the attrition rate by improving the student recruitment and admissions functions within LCS administration.

Financial Report:

Dr. Koops presented a financial report and specifically addressed the following:

- A] Revenue and expenses received during this fiscal year is stable and within budget.
- B] Mortgage debt has been reduced from \$994,000 [11/06] to \$962,000 [11/07].
- C] Receivables from bad debt has been reduced from \$95,000 [11/06] to \$85,000 [11/07].
- D] Non-tuition revenue [gifts and donations] are being received by LCS and are slightly ahead of this time last year [11/06].

School Management:

- A] Open Positions: There are searches in progress for two key positions: Development Director and Financial Manager.
- B] Social/Character Environment [*Ethos*]: Dr. Koops addressed a concern raised in surveys and in various conversations about student character and behavior. Dr. Koops is committed to consistent, equitable enforcement and discipline when appropriate. More importantly, Dr. Koops indicated that the school will continue to teach the behaviors of respect, kindness, compassion and courageousness through various means.
- C] Safety: Dr. Koops emphasized that ensuring continued school and student safety is one of his primary objectives.
- D] Teacher Evaluation: Dr. Koops briefly explained the newly implemented teacher evaluation program — which includes regular observation, evaluation, critique/praise, and professional growth expectations. Academic excellence is a goal for LCS . . . results and progress have been demonstrated through recent test scores.

LCS Board of Trustees Report:

- A] Sal Durso reviewed the foundational mission and vision statements for LCS. Sal also reported that the Board was engaged in a process to define objectives for leading LCS into the future. The Board is working on four (4) Cornerstones which will support the mission and vision of the school. The current draft of the Cornerstones includes:
 - 1. Academic Excellence
 - 2. Teacher Excellence
 - 3. Spiritual/Character Development and Maturity
 - 4. Affordable Tuition / Pilgrim Foundation

Sal indicated that the Board is committed to better communication with the LCS Association in regard to Board objectives [vision development, superintendent search, etc.].

- B. As chair of the LCS Board, Ken Granger presented a report which addressed:
1. Progress on the search for a permanent superintendent. The process will continue with identification of candidates and interviews. It is expected that candidates will emerge within the next few months as the cycle for school contracts begins to turn.
 2. The Board and administration are well prepared to move forward, striving for excellence and affordable tuition.
 3. A call for prayer for the Board and administration — especially with regard to acting as good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with.
 4. A call for increased volunteerism throughout the school.
 5. Consideration of the financial debt for LCS — paying-off the debt and/or refinancing the debt in October 2008.

Closing Faculty Reports:

- A] Mrs. Eytcheson presented a report about the enthusiasm found within the elementary school.
- B] Mr. Fleenor presented a report on the critical role of parents/home, the church and the Christian school for raising the LCS students in our current secular world and culture.

Closing:

Mr. Quinn offered a closing prayer and blessing.

Public Comment and Questions:

Several members of the LCS Association and community presented public comments and questions to the Board and LCS Association. The questions and comments focused on the following:

- Whether there is a plan to handle the financial deficit — the Board indicated that the plan is similar to prior years and it encourages implementation of the Pilgrim Foundation.
- Clarification on the issue of attrition.
- Clarification on the Pilgrim Foundation.
- Encouragement to move forward as a united community.
- Future of the Grand Charity Event [of similar functions] — there is a call for leaders and volunteers to continue this endeavor.
- Encouragement to ensure that future vision plans are based on a Christ-focused school and environment.

Adjournment:

The Association meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 pm.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by:



Neil A. Mac Vicar
LCS Board Secretary