

# LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Board Meeting

June 21, 2010

## MINUTES

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### **Board Members Present:**

Marv Helmker, President  
Ken Granger  
Joy Witte  
Rod Moore  
David Chapman  
Vickie Parmer  
Troy Jamieson  
Shari Nussdorfer, Secretary

### **Administrators:**

Pam Campbell, Superintendent  
Mary Dunsmore  
Carol Feuss

### **1. Call to Order: 7:10 p.m.**

Marv Helmker

### **2. Devotions and Prayer**

Joy Witte

Joy took this opportunity to encourage all present to consider our identity as a Christian School. We can consider how we accomplish our mission of education, however we are first and foremost defined by our purpose as Christ followers. The Scriptures provide clear standards and guidelines for our lives as ambassadors of Christ. It is our duty to teach and encourage our children about what it means to be distinctively Christian in a world and culture that fails to acknowledge a sovereign God, let alone Christ as Lord and Savior. As a Board, Joy challenged, consider each decision on the basis of how the outcome will advance the Kingdom of God and His plan of salvation.

### **3. 5/17/10 Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the 5/17/2010 Board Minutes as presented with clarification of the names of Board members who were present.

**Motion: PASSED**

### **4. Public Comment --** There were no public comments

### **5. New Business**

#### **a. Boy Scouts of America Charter**

**Russ Whipple**

Mr. Whipple, as a representative of Boy Scouts of America, Chief Okemos Council and Scoutmaster of Troop 911, presented a request to the LCS Board to consider becoming a Charter Organization to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 911.

Russ provided some of the history of Troop 911 and explained that the original Charter organization was not going to renew the troop charter as of August 2010. Russ gave an explanation of the roles and responsibilities of a BSA Charter organization and how a Charter organization interfaces with the Boy Scout troop, leadership and activities. Questions regarding organizational oversight and liability issues were discussed.

From a procedural standpoint, the Board was not provided with the written documentation, policies or roles/responsibilities of a Charter Organization from the Boy Scouts of America to review in detail.

There was general agreement that sponsoring a BSA Charter sounded like a good idea. The Board could not take any action on this request, however, without thoroughly reviewing the official documents and the requirements of a Charter Organization.

It was requested that the Board be provided with all of the related documents for consideration. A group of Board members will be assigned to review the matter and advise the Board for a formal vote on the request at the next Board meeting.

**b. LCS 2010 Parent Survey Results**

**Jason Soltice, Surevista**

Jason gave a brief overview of how to interpret the 2010 Parent Survey results. He urged the Board and Administration to use the results specifically to remind our community about what LCS does well. The Survey scores overall showed many significant improvements over the previous year.

Respondent Totals: Elementary = 102  
Middle School = 64  
High School = 80

Expressed satisfaction with the LCS Administrative Team was rated much higher with 50% of parents who responded rating the Administration as "Excellent", and 36% giving a "fair" rating (compared to last year 38% and 38% respectively). Over 60% of respondents rated LCS facilities as "Excellent".

Overall satisfaction ratings for each program, Elementary, Middle School and High School, were up this year.

Elementary = 95% respondents satisfied / extremely satisfied (89% 2009)  
Middle School = 84 % satisfied / extremely satisfied (75% in 2009)  
High School = 82 % satisfied / extremely satisfied (74% in 2009)

Perceived and recognized improvements in the performance of our principals were reflected in significantly higher ratings across the board from the prior year's results. Pam noted that the comments included with many of the surveys last year provided good feedback for the principals and staff to intentionally implement some changes for this year. This year's comments will also be carefully reviewed with care to identify where further changes and improvements can be made.

One area of note where parent feedback continues to indicate a real challenge for LCS is in the area of Social Atmosphere and concerns about bullying behavior among our students. Jason, from Surevista, noted that schools across the country are struggling with this issue. It seems to be a cultural challenge even in private, Christian schools. Surevista, which provides survey services for many schools, notes that no one school seems to have found a specific program or intervention that has caused a dramatic improvement for their students. Pam reported that the bullying issue is a priority

concern here at LCS and that the leadership team has been participating in seminars and conferences to learn more about specific interventions. In the coming school year, 2010-11, LCS will be implementing a number of bullying awareness and prevention strategies.

As in prior years, the Board encouraged the Administration to be sure to inform our school community when changes in policy or program are prompted by the feedback given in the Parent Surveys. This is one way to let parents know that their input is valuable and important to us.

LCS Parent Survey 2009-2010 Results are available in the Main office for any LCS parent to review at their leisure.

## **6. Administrative Reports Superintendent**

**Pam Campbell**

Pam remarked upon many highlights of her regular report.

- Administrative Team retreat focused on team building and setting a vision for the next year.
- HS Spiritual Life committee is meeting to develop clear goals and a vision for enhancing the MS and HS Chapel programs for 2010-11.
- The Student Council has unveiled the Biblical theme for 2010-11: God's Mosaic
- Pam is working with some key LCS family resources, including Dr. Carnegie, on developing strategies to improve recruitment and retention of students here at LCS.
- Lori Iverson successfully pulled off a First LCS Alumni Reunion here at the Belle Chase facility. Over 70 people were in attendance, many expressing that it was their first visit to our current facility. It was a very positive event and evaluating the experience has given our staff good information for growing and expanding the event in years to come.

## **LCS Foundation**

**Carol Feuss**

- Carol shared her praise and amazement that God provided for us so generously with funds for 2010-11 scholarships to LCS families.
- In one week our resource pool of \$5000 turned into over \$200,000 of funds from many donors at the LCSF 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Breakfast generously stepped up to help support families needing assistance for the upcoming year.
- The LCSF annual retreat was a powerful meeting resulting in some amazing LCSF fundraising goals for the coming year. Of specific note, the LCSF has made it a priority to raise \$880,000 for scholarships, multi-child grants, foundation ops and dept reduction in the coming year.
- In addition the LCSF desires to add over \$100,000 to the LCS endowment.
- Carol appealed to the support of all of us at LCS to help make these goals a reality for our LCS Community and the families that we serve.
- The Executive Committee for LCSF has been determined:
  - President—Charley Janssen
  - President-Elect—Joel Zylstra

- Immediate Past-President—Sal Durso
- Treasurer—Joseph Brooks
- Secretary—Bob Chapman
- Member at large—Melanie Foster

**Motion: The LCSF asked the LCS Board to approve the following members to the LCSF Board for 3 year terms beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010: Susan Bustamante and Chad Myers.**

**Motion: PASSED**

**Financial Report**

**Mary Dunsmore**

- Enrollment Update: 472 FTEs on our way to the 530 FTE goal/budget
- Accounts Receivables is a mere \$14,000 (out of \$3,000,000 tuition)
- We do have a handful of families that will not be able to return in the Fall unless they catch up on tuition bills, however July is usually a month for catching up for many families.
- May financials indicate that we remain ahead of budget.
- Auditors from Plante Moran will begin their work at LCS in June.
- The Scholarship committee met to review scholarship applications with the very good news that they had a significantly greater pool of funds to work than was originally available (over \$200 K versus the original \$5K). Letters notifying families of scholarship awards have gone out.

**7. Adjournment of the Public portion of the Board meeting: 8:55 pm.**

**8. Executive Session: Review of specific personnel issues/matters**

**9.LCS Board Monitoring / Review of Performance**

**Joy Witte**

**10. Adjournment with Prayer**

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Nussdorfer, Board Secretary