St. John’s School Board Meeting

February 27, 2019

Members Present: Jeni Kuntz, Melissa Bier, Bethany Hardy, Lisa Loso, Linnea Kment, Makayla Wahlberg, Cindy Johnson, Dayna Born (by speaker phone), Pastor Ben.

**Others Present:** Lisa Douglass (parent), Lindsay Hoppe (parent/Dep Hoppe’s Daughter-in-Law), Harvey Berg (member of St. John’s), Nicole Anderson (member of St. John’s), Deb Hoppe (former teacher), Traci Tapani (friend/prior employer of Deb Hoppe), Lori Jung (parent), Jeremy Jung (parent), Mike Zacher (parent), Aly Zacher (parent), Courtney Berry (parent/member of St. John’s).

Meeting opened with prayer at 6:35pm by Pastor Ben.

Meeting strayed from planned agenda to listen to and address concerns of parents. Some of the main concerns were:

Lindsay Hoppe asked the board what changes are occurring within LAP and how will they benefit the children? Dayna Born responded that there will be restructuring of 2 classrooms, job descriptions for staff as well as Board members/officers are being reviewed and revised to make more clear what duties are expected of whom. TADS is being replaced with the more user-friendly Procare. Upon receipt of Fritz’s resignation in November, the attention of the board switched from meeting the need of teacher aides to filling the Director position with someone possessing DHS qualifications by the end of the year.

Courtney Berry stated she was not impressed with being asked to switch her son’s schedule at the last minute when she had enrolled him early-on in April for the 2018-19 school year. Dayna Born apologized for the inconvenience and got the impression Courtney was alright with the request per what Deb had reported to Dayna. Dayna explained it was asked of Courtney to switch as to try to accommodate another student, while still adhering to the 10:1 student/teacher ratio required of DHS, not that the board just “wanted to get more tuition money” as Courtney stated. Courtney was also upset with what she thought is poor communication regarding weather-related school closures to which the board responded that LAP follows the North Branch school closings which get announced on local TV stations as well as posted on the LAP Facebook page. Courtney also wanted to know if there will be a makeup day for Jeni’s class that was cancelled due not being able to find a sub. Makayla Wahlberg said she is working with staff on arranging a makeup day.

Lisa Douglass expressed the communication of Deb’s leaving was poorly executed. She felt blind-sighted about Deb’s leaving as she was notified a day before Deb’s last day. Board will work on a more effective means of communication to ensure all are reached.

Mike Zacher stated the only reason they come to LAP is because of Deb. Why should they continue? Makayla stressed the board’s initiative to have a consistent staff schedule along with complying to DHS rules. Lisa Loso added that looking into curriculum changes and restructuring the classrooms to better meet needs of students.

Traci Tapani addressed the board with concerns of how Deb felt she was mistreated and although she could seek legal action against LAP and/or St. John’s she won’t. Ms. Tapani stressed that she would like the board/St. John’s to make changes she feels need to be made as to not put another employee in the same position.

The board notified those in attendance that arranging a Parent Meeting was on the agenda to be discussed.

A fifteen-minute break was taken, and parents were invited to stay to observe as the board continued with its regular meeting. No parents stayed and Pastor Ben joined when confirmation was done.

Subcommittee – the Church Council has created a committee composed of Derek Fitcher, Nicole Anderson and Harvey Berg to investigate when and how the deterioration between the school board and Deb took place resulting in Deb’s resignations. The committee will then follow up with its findings. The committee has started interviewing people involved and were here during the parent portion of tonight’s meeting. Council also suggest changing meetings time to better accommodate Pastor Ben’s schedule.

**MMSC** to change monthly meeting to 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm made by Lisa Loso and seconded by Melissa Bier.

**Copier** - Also brought up at the council meeting was there has been influx in printer charges which could possibly be due to a larger amount of color copies more than likely printed by the preschool.  It was said that measures can be taken to put passcodes on the printer to track who is printing to better evaluate where the cost is coming from.

**MMSC** – to request passcodes be set up on the St. John’s office copier/printer in order to be mindful of printing and to assess usage to be able to reimburse appropriately made by Cindy Johnson and seconded by Bethany Hardy.

Subcommittee of Lisa, Makayla and Jeni will explore cost of putting a printer in the back for the school.

**Enrollment** – Makayla has given 4 tours, 2 of which resulting in students signing up, with 3 more scheduled. Currently 8 students (1 returning, 2 with scholarship needs) are enrolled. Break down of numbers for 2019-20 are:

AM PM

M 3

T 3 1

W 1

TH 5 1

F 1

Bethany suggested if none are enrolled for Wednesday, we should still promote it at Faithweavers as some families may not know we are offering it. Bethany, Melissa, Lisa and Makayla have the scholarship application drafted, now working on policy.

**Procare** is working well.

**Indemnification clause** – a proposed bylaw provision for indemnification was reviewed.

**MMSC** - to approve the indemnification cause and include in the Board of Education Policy Manual made by Bethany Hardy and seconded by Cindy Johnson.

**Parent meeting** – it was discussed to schedule a Parent Information meeting Thursday, March 7th at 7:00pm to adress points mentioned by parents tonight. Main theme is to answer how changes taking place will benefit their children. Subjects to be covered will include teachers/aide staffing, curriculum – Pocket of Preschool?, communication – utilize Remind app. Also let it be known that Jeni will return to 3 Days/kids as originally scheduled when a new teacher is hired per Jeni’s request.

**MMSC** – to schedule parent meeting Thursday, March 7th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall made by Lisa Loso and seconded by Cindy Johnson.

**MMSC** – to use Remind app as communication tool for parents, teachers and school board made by Bethany Hardy and seconded by Cindy Johnson.

**LSS** – Linnea suggested that the school may be owed a refund from LSS for the Grandma position never being filled. Lisa will check into if any payment was made for it.

MMSC to accept minutes from Feb. 6, 2019 meeting made by Lisa Loso and seconded by Bethany Hardy.

Thank you report- Linnea. None sent or needed, Thank you received from Bea.

**Teacher interview** – Makayla, interview is schedule for 3/12. Bethany, Melissa, Makayla and Pasto Ben will be present.

**Treasurer report** – received from Lisa Loso

**Voice/Bulletin announcements** – enrollment

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Johnson