

Red Lion Christian Academy

School Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2010

7:00 pm

- Attendance
 - Board: Shannon Dare (non-voting), Rick Emerson, Patrick Fieger, Jim Manning, Paul Brost, Tom Smith, Jamie Kaczowka, Jamie Swalm (non-voting) - not present
 - Guests: Sam Osbourn, Steve Pearl
 - Parents: 17

- Call to Order
 - Patrick provided overview of the agenda
 - Meeting Called to Order
 - Devotion & Prayer - Paul Brost
 - Administrative Update
 - New Classes/Curriculum – Sam Osbourn
 - Open Session Q&A

- Opening Prayer / Devotion
 - Paul Brost discussed Matthew 25 and the Parable of the Talents...highlighting that deception is a tool Satan uses to fool us. Today, would we bicker on how the talents were distributed? How did each individual handle their talents? The person with the one talent challenged how he was handled instead of asking for help or input on what to do. Question for us-what do we do when we are deceived? Respond in humility... ask for help...or respond in sin and display a bad attitude?

- Administration Updates
 - Shannon provided some key updates
 - Calendar review....magazine drive....See U at the Pole...
 - Theme verse for the school year: 1 Tim 4:8....first theme is "Character"
 - Upper School Chapel-every other week students will meet in small groups with teachers and staff. Goals of the small groups are to build spiritual leaders and increase accountability.
 - Good start to the school year...excitement and energy, parents recognize and appreciate the new focus. We are thankful for God's provision.
 - New website is up and running....old version was hit with a virus. New one running, but not totally complete. Please forward any website/communication suggestions to the school office. Patrick stated the site includes a "School Board" folder that can be found under "Parent Connect" and "Documents & Forms." Will post additional documents such as the board governance policy and the strategic plan. Steve Pearl highlighted other website enhancements such as a real time calendar, blogging, and more pictures.
 - TeacherEase is up and running, additional plans to use it in the Elementary School
 - New phone system targeted for install next week
 - Technology investment is beginning to pay off, however still a long way to go

- Enrollment is 719 with an additional 9 applications pending. About 30 below forecasted budget. Exit interviews with parents indicate 60% of people have left due to financial reasons, 40% due to the negative publicity. Extended approximately \$300,000 in financial aid this year. The downturn in the economy continues to have an impact.
 - Reviewing budget constraints... exploring revenue opportunities and additional cuts to make up the shortfall. May have a fall fundraiser.
 - Auction moved to March 5th, 2011...theme is Taste of Italy
 - DIAA-Our portion almost complete...expected resolution and closure in October
 - ESPN visit was a non-event... no knowledge of when it will air.
 - Steve Pearl: The News Journal incorrectly published when ESPN was arriving...they arrived on Friday at 1:00 pm and were constantly escorted by Steve Pearl.
 - Patrick clarified our decision to allow ESPN on our campus. We did not approach ESPN-they approached us. They were going to run the story on David with or without us allowing them on our campus. We are proud of our campus, faculty and staff, and believed it was in the school's best interest to welcome them onto our campus, though we recognized some parental concerns
 - Parent Question: Concern raised about allowing ESPN to film in the classroom. Shannon: ESPN only filmed one class and each parent will receive and need to sign a permission slip before their child appears in any video
- Sam Osbourn: Dean of Academics: (see below for Sam's report)
 - There have been requests for more viable electives for Jr and Sr. classes. Now have the option of taking an additional Bible class...i.e. Honors Bible, Gospel of John and Practical Theology. Other worldview classes...Media oriented, Spiritual Disciplines, female only Precepts course in 2nd semester for 11, 12. Ministry 101 being revamped.
 - Added CP level Statistics, next year Honors Statistics; consider AP statistics
 - Parent Question-meaning of CP? CP=College Prep-we are a college preparatory school, Honors= harder/more rigor, AP= Advanced Placement (College Credit)
 - Would like to add more AP classes...potentially in the medical track. AP Anatomy
 - Dual Credit Courses: Online courses with college and giving credit at RLCA
 - Honors Physical Science class. More physics related that support 11th and 12th Physics classes.
 - Fine Arts: Sean Bailey has revamped the Fine Arts program. Added introduction to Visual Art (Art Essentials). Added Studio Art I, II and independent Art class.
 - Vocal Jazz Ensemble added. Added a Women's Ensemble for 9th grade.
 - Added Music Theory for potential Music Majors in College
 - Added Social Studies. Mock Trial. A competition between schools. Attorney's come in a help and is done in front of a Judge. Have asked the Attorney's to come in a teach. It has now become an Introduction to Law ½ credit class.
 - ¼ Credit Course for preparing to apply to college. Dawn Bell teaching.
 - Middle School Rotation classes. Spanish, Speech and Poetry, Missions, Research Skills
 - After accreditation: Allowed by the Federal Government to accept kids on educational VISAS. Now have 6 students from Korea. They have to pass the same entrance exams. These 6 students are from a Christian school in Korea. We have three others from the Virgin Islands, possibly 2 more. Potentially one from China. These are all I-20 students. Then there are 2 short term students. One from Philippines, one from Brazil. Have a new association with a school from the Dominican Republic that we expect to bear fruit next year.

- Now have On-Line courses available. Also there are some AI a Cart opportunities.
- Patrick: Excited about the new courses, especially the Bible classes that will provide students with a systematic approach to the Scriptures.
- **Question:** How many in the AP classes? Not sure of total numbers since there are some duplicates.
- **Question:** How often are text books reviewed? Reviewed routinely as part of curriculum. Generally a 5 year cycle.
- **Question:** How do we promote RLCA and make this attractive...especially now? Have not had to do it previously.....now with the tough economy, more competition such as charter schools, we need to promote much more. Steve Pearl: (background- comes from advertising industry) Word of mouth is the single most effective in Christian community. Placement with the media just to get the name out....we are here. Viral activities on the Internet: Facebook as an example. Not just one thing, but multi-channel opportunities. Looking at the admissions packet and the message...streamline, visually attractive, communicates message.
- **Questions:** Are courses described online? Not yet, but coming....requires a lot of content.

**Dean of Academics Report
Sam Osbourn
September 14, 2010**

New Courses for 2010-11

1. New Bible courses have been added for the juniors and seniors next year. During the first semester, students will be required to take the course designated for their grade, while during the second semester they will have 7 different choices, including an honors level option and a course designed specifically for the girls. The options are as followed:
 - CP Cultivating Christianity – Senior required course
 - CP Heritage of Faith – Junior required course
 - Honors Gospel of John
 - CP Christian View of Media
 - Honors Practical Theology
 - CP Spiritual Disciplines
 - Precepts a Women’s Study
 - Ministry 101 – New Teacher, New Curriculum
2. A CP level course in Statistics has been added for seniors next year. 2 students are working with the teacher and are planning on taking the AP exam.
3. An honors level Physical Science course has been added next year for the freshmen. This will include additional physics concepts that will prepare the students for the new physics offerings.
4. A non calculus based physics course will be offered to students at the AP and honors level. In addition, a new calculus based AP Physics course will be offered to seniors.
5. The Fine Arts program has been expanded to include additional courses in both visual art and music.

Art

 - Introduction to Visual Art – For those students new to our high school art program

- In visual art the courses will be more skill based with Studio Art I & II courses
- Independent Art

Music

- Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- Women's Ensemble – Mostly for 9th grade girls
- Music Theory

6. Introduction to Law – Mock Trial
7. Guidance
 - College and Career Preparation
8. Middle School
 - Rotations
 - Intro to Spanish
 - Speech and Poetry
 - Missions
 - Research Skills

Foreign Students – More Details at the meeting

- 6 foreign students from Korea who are I20 students
- 3 students from the Virgin Islands one of which is an I20 student
- 2 foreign exchange students one from Brazil and the other from the Philippines who is visually impaired
- We have 3 other I20 foreign students who are interested – 2 probable, 1 at the early stages of the process

Online and Part Time Students

- Several students are either currently enrolled in SevenStar Academy's online program or have recently finished.
- We have had a couple requests to have a student take ala cart classes either due a homeschool situation or in one case a student who is an Olympic class ice skater who wants to take some courses at RLCA – Shannon, Paul and I will be working on more specific policy concerning part time students going forward.

