

Red Lion Christian Academy

School Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2010

7:00 pm

- **Attendance**
 - Board: Shannon Dare – non-voting, Rick Emerson, Patrick Fieger, Jim Manning , Paul Brost, Tom Smith, Jamie Kaczowka, Kim Creek, Guy Carter, Jamie Swalm – non-voting (not present)
 - Guests: Rick Collier, Steve Pearl
 - Parents: 9

- **Call to Order**
 - Patrick provided overview of the agenda
 - Meeting Called to Order (Patrick)
 - Devotion & Prayer (Rick Emerson)
 - Introduction of New Board Members (Patrick)
 - Administrative Update (Shannon)
 - Open Session Q&A

- **Opening Prayer / Devotion – Rick Emerson**
 - Ben Hawkins was a liaison between the settlers and the Indians. Called to see the president....he said, “will be there if the Lord willing and the Creek don’t rise”....the “Creek” was the name of the Indian tribe. Parallel-what is God’s will for us...for RLCA? Roman’s tells us how we can know one aspect of God’s will. “Offer ourselves as a living sacrifice...be transformed by the renewing of our minds...test and approve God’s will for us.” How can we offer a sacrifice? By surrendering our lives to him. Heb 13:21...” He will work what is pleasing in us....do not conform to the world.” We must turn our backs to the world. This school offers the opportunity for kids to do this daily with teachers and others. That is why there are so many are attending the Open House tonight. Matt 10:39 “...whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Most important is to find God’s will for this school and spend time on our knees seeking his will.
Patrick: Romans 12:1 is a tough verse to fulfill because “living” sacrifices can get up off the altar and walk away.

- **Introduction of New Board Members:** Patrick welcomed Kim Creek and Guy Carter to the School Board, and thanked them for their willingness to serve. With the addition of Kim, we have reached the limit of non-RLEFC board members per our policy. Patrick outlined the Board member qualifications, requirements, and how individuals can join the board.
 - Guy and Kim provided overviews of their testimony, background info on themselves and their families, and the gifts and skill set each will bring to the board.

- **Elementary Update-Rick Collier**
 - The exciting thing about the elementary school is that God is moving in a real and vibrant way. Focusing on the culture of the school-being a professional environment, being thorough in everything. We are excited about where we are, and whom we serve.

- We are a Biblically based school in all facets, and are educating the kids in a balanced way. Some successes we have seen thus far:
- Mrs. Richardson-CATCH Program...focused on spiritual, physical, and mental growth
- New Spanish Program –grades 1-4
- Economics project in the 4th grade...Epic Bread Company. Many life skills being modeled by the 4th grade teachers, and half of the proceeds will be donated to Kay's Camp...camp dedicated for children who are battling cancer. Patrick: Please visit EpicBreadCompany.com and order...last year raised \$1000.
- Starting new gifted and talented program "Stretch" for 4th and 5th grade students. 10 students who scored within the top 90% of the SAT test. Parents of qualifying students will be contacted shortly to outline this voluntary program.
- Reviewing the curriculum to insure it is matched up properly with our overall goals
- Homework help being offered three days a week after school for kids that need additional instruction.
- Three students recently qualified for a John's Hopkins focus program based on academic achievement.
- Three students in the elementary "Little Wonder" running team qualified for nationals in Kentucky. Patrick highlighted the great opportunity this is for our elementary students and there are plans to promote it more next year. Special thanks to Heiddy DiGregorio for coaching this team and making it such a success.
- We are exploring bringing 1st graders back to the elementary building from the EEC
- Fundraiser for Elementary School-Chic-fil-A night Nov 16th
- Patrick asked for a TeacherEase update. Rick: 4th and 5th grade teachers are now using TeacherEase. Looking for lower grade teachers to use TeacherEase in some capacity, but the program is not designed for the younger grades.
- Question: Last year there was some talk about starting an honors program? Did it take place?
- Rick: Sounds like the Stretch program...there will be a fee for this program, though we will use existing resources to help keep the costs down.
- Question: Is there a location on the school website to place questions? Seems like a great tool to help fill in some of the information gaps.
- Rick: On the website, there is a "Contact Us" section that generates emails to the person, so please take advantage of it. We are also trying to enhance the effectiveness and reach of our communication...being proactive vs. reactive. Taking a position of not "assuming" anything to ensure all families get the information they need. Also looking for input, so please don't hesitate to contact me.
- Question: High school went paperless...does the elementary school still do the welcome back packets? At the start of the school year there seemed to be some confusion since there weren't any back to school packets.
- Rick: We are trying to promote paperless campuswide, however there should always be paper alternatives for parents who want to receive it that way.
- Question: Maybe there can be a "Welcome Packet" button on the Website that has all of the needed information.
- Rick: We will do that next year, and I believe would have this year however we were having problems with our website crashing the few weeks leading up to school. We will continually improve and are looking for suggestions. If you hear of others who have questions, please encourage them to bring them to my attention.

- **Administration Up date-Shannon**

- Currently Enrollment is 726
- There are 31 families in tonight's Open House...41 kids. This is one of the best attended Open House's we've had. Very thankful to God for the turnout.
- Finances:
 - Shannon: Working on reducing our budget deficit. Have a few fund raisers coming up. One the end of January, and one the end of April. We have cut some programs to reduce the shortfall and have started to form a team to help launch a Capital Campaign. God continues to provide for the school.
 - Question: Any previous capital campaigns to reduce debt... will we use the funds to pay off debt?
 - Patrick: To my knowledge the school has never done a capital campaign. Believes that a capital campaign is needed to enable the school to achieve its objectives...teacher endowment, fine arts building, increase in financial aid.
 - Shannon: No firm details yet, the campaign will be for debt reduction and other capital needs such as classrooms to replace the modulares which need to be replaced.
 - Patrick: We are very sensitive to debt and it will be a consideration in future decisions, and we will adhere to Scriptural guidance.
- DIAA update: Met with the DIAA on November 8th and hope to have a resolution the end of this week. Will communicate to all parents once the outcome has been finalized.
- Looking into a summer program this year...8 week program is planned.
- Patrick: Please pray for the families at the Open House who are considering our school.
- Questions: There were some statements about mistakes in the past...one of my clients has a "win back" team to get previous clients. Could we do something like that? Seems like it could be beneficial.
- Steve Pearl: Yes, we are putting together a list of churches and individuals to reach out to. We want to be sensitive to those who have left, but we want to bring healing to others.
- Question: Is FOCAS available to all students? Can we expand the reach of this foundation so no family would need to leave for financial reasons?
- Steve Pearl: We've had extensive discussions with the FOCAS foundation. Tom Carroll is the new director for the foundation. You will see this program publicized in new ways going forward. New FOCAS materials discussing spiritual development and developing spiritual leaders...sports are there but only as a part of the school. (Showed example of the new brochure). Foundation exists to remove financial obstacles to a Christian education.
- Patrick: One example of this new publicity is that Tom Carroll is on the agenda for the tonight's open also. Also to clarify-school administration decides who is accepted into RLCA.
- Guy Carter closed in prayer