

St. Lawrence School Advisory Minutes
September 14, 2020

Present: Benda Anderson, Fr. Gary DeRouchey, Ted Hendricks, Kelly Peters, Rondi Scoular, Dena Van Lith, and Susie Wendland
Absent: Chris Kelly and Scott Wiese

The meeting was called to order and an opening prayer was recited.

There was a motion to approve the minutes by Ted and seconded by Dena.

We welcomed new board member Kelly Peters to the group as she replaced outgoing member Jason Street.

Election of officers was conducted and the the new officers are as follows:
President - Scott Wiese, Vice President - Chris Kelly, Secretary - Rondi Scoular

Principal's Report:

Current counts for each class is as follows:

Pre-36, K-13, 1st-13, 2nd-14, 3rd-9, 4th-13, 5th-15, and 6th-10 which brings a total number of 123.

We are up 7 students from the 2019-2020 school year.

New staff member this year is Sarah Whipkey who is teaching 3rd grade. Mrs. Anderson reports that Sarah is doing a wonderful job and is a great addition to the staff.

There again have been multiple scholarships offered and utilized for the 2020-2021 school year. The Kremer scholarship totaling \$10,000 was split among 12 students. The Knights of Columbus scholarship has been decided but we are still waiting for the amount total. The Presentation Sisters awarded \$750 each to 3 different students. The SDPE approved 7 this year and we are still waiting on amounts of those as well.

The theme for the school year is "Jesus is WILD about you!"

Governor Noem released this week that the Corona Relief Funding was passed and will include extra funding for all South Dakota public and private schools. The money would have to be spent by December 30th, 2020. The church needs to verify that those funds are not contingent on certain stipulations that may go against the teachings/practices of the church. St. Lawrence is looking at utilizing the extra funds on technology/tutoring.

The CARES Act also brought in extra supplies for the public school and they graciously shared with us some of the items. We received some PPE for isolation rooms, cleaning supplies, 15 Chromebooks that technically the public school owns but do not wish to have them returned, and 20 i-pads.

The South Dakota Department of Health/Education stated that they cannot require a student to quarantine and each school is allowed to create their own guidelines. St. Lawrence decided the close contact list will go back 2 days prior to symptoms developing and will require the student to quarantine for two weeks. The Governor did name teachers as essential workers so they will not have to quarantine if they have a positive student, however, if their spouse were to test positive then they do have to quarantine. The school will partake in sentinel testing in which one random employee will be tested each week.

The staff completed a technology in-service September 4th which involved learning how to use Google Classroom and SeeSaw to their complete capabilities. There were 4 staff members that received new laptops over the summer to better our technology quality as well.

Student Council Report:

Due to the inability to gather in large groups, the Student Council is on hold this semester.

LIFE Group Report:

The Golf Tournament update is there only currently 2 teams and trying to decide if we should still host this year or try for next year when we get a better date.

The Dinner Theater is planned as of now and the theme is "Murder Mystery Dress Rehearsal Murder Myster". The play was written by John Lightfield and will be directed by John and Kim Lightfield. It is currently set for October 16th and 17th. There was an increase in the price but due to COVID there are less tickets available because of required spacing guidelines. They are looking at adjusting the menu to steak cubes instead of roast beef this year.

Old Business:

The advisory council will now meet every other month instead of monthly. The meeting dates for this school year are Nov. 9th, Jan. 11th, Mar. 8th, and May 10th.

Mark and Dena Van Lith are willing to the greenery pickup again this year as long as they can round up an enclosed trailer for transport again. They will reach out to Dave Giesen with Dakota Valley Trucking to see if they can use a truck again this year.

There was no New Business added to the agenda. Next meeting is set for Nov. 9th at 6:15pm.

Ted made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dena seconded the motion.

The closing prayer was said.

Respectfully submitted,
Rondi Scoular