



Rainier Christian Schools - Board of Directors
PO Box 58249
16707 174th Ave. SE Renton, WA 98058
425-255-7273 • 425-255-6101 (fax)
districtboard@rainierchristian.org

GENERAL MEETING - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 29, 2024 – RCHS, 6:00pm

Type of meeting: General Board meeting with Directors and President, open to public.
Facilitator: Julie Franzen (Chair). Board Members: Dan Vander Pol (Vice Chair), Darryl D'Ambrosio (Treasurer), Garth Gill, Tim Sica, Mark Hargrove, Rick Rosenkranz (Secretary).
School President: Bruce Kelly. Attendees: Wes Brown, Matthew Ahlen, Alan Bulger, Patty Edwards, Carol Meeuwse, Sigrid Jones, Al Stever, the Wards, Lara (parent), one other.
Online: Kofi Adusei, Amy McKamey, Anita Mayeda, Anna Kim, Cactus Wren, Caramel Shelby Moore, Jacob Fouts, Latricha North, Laurel Bunker, Pamela Faulconer, Shastie Steinshouer, the Vennings.
Board Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer by Julie Franzen at 6:00pm.

Minutes Approval and Other Open Board Business

Approval of November 2023 General and Executive Board meeting minutes. Garth Gill made a motion to approve; Tim Sica seconded. Minutes approved as revised/submitted by unanimous vocal vote.

No other open Board business was conducted.

President's Report – Bruce Kelly and School Principals:

Finances – Al Stever reporting. November net income of \$149K. December net income of \$94K. FY 23/24 net loss projected to be (\$190K), which is significantly better than original projections. Bruce Kelly, Al, and others are striving to cut expenses to minimize the loss. Largest impact to the cost savings has been payroll-wise, with some open high pay positions being left unfilled (such as MVE principal position) and shifts in roles not being back-filled; these save both salary expenses and benefit expenses. Other savings coming from trimming cleaning expenses and changes in copier contracts.

LPPC – Carol Meeuwse reporting. State Licensing is pushing for higher certification and training qualifications for ALL childcare staff. To help alleviate the impact of this, WA Federation of Independent Schools is working with our legislature to find a work equivalent option to be added as an alternative to certification requirements for all childcare staff. A former KVE student has enrolled all three of his children in LPPC, highlighting how much the school



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impacted his life positively. Thanks to Alan Bulger and Bill Dipple for fixing facility issues and broken pipes.

MVPC – Patty Edwards reporting. A new assistant has been hired for the toddler class. MVE has invited MVPC to participate in the Valentine’s Bingo and Dessert Social. Added five new students in January, which are the last students that can be added with current staff, so to continue to grow, Patty needs more staff.

A question was asked online about putting signage on roads for advertisement. The reply was that there are significant limitations for putting signs in people’s yards, and that previous attempts to work out deals with landowners has proven to be cost-prohibitive.

MVE – Bruce Kelly reporting. Valentine’s Bingo and Dessert Social on February 16, including MVPC. 6th Grade Visitation to RCMS on February 22, to meet staff, participate in chapel, and have lunch in the cafeteria. 6th Grade parent information night will be February 26. Four power poles at the campus are in need of replacement, getting bids for a phased approach. An assistant principal has been hired under an internship as a teacher, with the potential to be shifted to principal if the internship goes well. Pump house fire on January 12, with Bill Dipple and sons helping with a workaround until more permanent repairs can be made. Front desk reception position now open as previous person stepped down recently. Maker space position is open also. We’ve had several new student enroll at MVE, and have had a steady flow of tours for new families.

KVE – Alan Bulger reporting. Upcoming 4th and 5th grade field trip to Olympia. PTF Sweetheart Breakfast Dinner on February 9, 5:30-8pm. 6th Grade Visitation to RCMS on February 22. Oven in kitchen needs to be replaced. The playground area fails to drain properly during heavy rain. Some disciplinary issues in December have been addressed and students seem to be responding well to the correction.

RCMS – Bruce Kelly reporting. Mr. Bradish will begin a Coffee Talk time on January 31 for Middle School families to help counter what kids are learning/seeing online and in social media. Bathroom pipe breaks have totaled both the boys and girls bathrooms; BDC’s responsibility to fix, but it could take weeks.

RGHS – Bruce Kelly reporting. Sean McDowell Apologetics Conference on March 14, held at Pacific Christian Academy. Mission Adventure Trip April 1-11, and training is going well; ministry will be focused around sports camp activities. Textile drive to support Mission Trip 2024 raised \$2K, and another round will be held in February. Community Impact Day on May 22 in

Julie Franzen, Chair / Dan Vander Pol, Vice Chair

Darryl D’Ambrosio, Treasurer / Rick Rosenkranz, Secretary / Mark Hargrove / Garth Gill / Tim Sica

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conjunction with Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. Homecoming Dance was fun and had a great turnout.

RCS-wide – Current enrollment at 336, which is up from the beginning of year of 327 but well off of the budgeted 370.

At this time the floor was opened for questions. An online parent asked for some specifics about the potential 5.4% tuition increase and how it was developed; her concern centered around the cost-cutting that's been happening yet seeing an increase in the price of the product, which means the quality of the product is dropping while the price of it increases. Bruce responded by saying he needs to increase tuition in order to keep up with salary increases for staff/teachers, highlighting that over the years 2020-2024 Washington state salaries have increased 21%. There was some more back-and-forth about the concern that the price doesn't match the quality, and that a family can pay a little more to get a better private school experience somewhere else; additionally, the parent articulated a desire for more transparency regarding the budget, in order to gain insight into the cost issues, get a better feel for what the parents and school are up against, and see how parents might be able to help.

Tech – Wes Brown reporting. All sixty Chromebooks funded by the auction Fund-a-Need have been received and placed, with a few being kept to support tech needs across the district. Matthew Ahlen shared that changes have been made to servers to help with functionality and gave some additional insight into new Chromebook usage and placement.

Athletics – Kofi Adusei reporting online. Girls basketball has made the playoffs with a 6-5 record, but unfortunately BDC gym issues will impact the potential for a home court advantage (flooring/court issues, roof issues; it was suggested that these issues be brought up with BDC during contract renewal later this year). Senior night January 30. Gearing up for Spring with boys baseball and girls track. Need a new volleyball coach for next year, hoping to carry the momentum of a good season this year into next year.

HR – Sigrid Jones reporting. The minimum wage increase on January 1 fortunately only affected four part-time/seasonal substitute roles. December CPI shows inflation at 4.4%, which will be a key data point in salary reviews/raises. W2s and 1095s will be mailed within the week. We have a need for applicants for Childcare. The Assistant Admin role was posted on the ADP Career Center and within an hour we received an application.



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President's Items – Bruce Kelly reporting:

- 1) Continued coordination with Valley Christian School to help bridge their 6th graders to our middle school. Their 6th graders have been invited to Visitation Day.
- 2) Our next textile drive in support of the Mission Trip will begin February 5 and extend into March.
- 3) Professional Development days being held for K-6 Math curriculum and for 7-12 Social Emotional Learning
- 4) Praise to Bill Dipple and sons for helping with our emergencies.
- 5) Year-end giving to RCS was very helpful.
- 6) As mentioned by Sigrid, ADP streamlining hiring and providing complementary job postings.

Open discussion time with attendees:

1. Parent Lara shared the same concerns mentioned earlier about tuition increases relative to the product. The poor condition of RCS facilities hurts being drawn to the district and the ask for more money. She also mentioned our high re-enrollment costs relative to other private schools, who tend to have lower re-enrollment fees. There are also limited sports options for the price being asked, the costs for lunches seems unreasonably high, and she would like to see more fundraising options to help with facility improvements to make the school district more attractive considering the price.

Bruce closed the meeting with prayer at 7:35pm.

Next General Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:00pm, location – KVE.
Google Meets will be used to provide an online/remote option.