



RAINIER
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Rainier Christian Schools - Board of Directors
PO Box 58249
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GENERAL MEETING- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 31, 2020 – via Zoom, 6:00pm

Type of meeting: General Board meeting with Directors and President, open to public.

Facilitator: Julie Franzen (Chair). Board Members: Steve Pope (Vice Chair), Dan Vander Pol (Treasurer), Rick Rosenkranz (Meeting Secretary), Mark Hargrove, Kent Bruce. School President: Bruce Kelly. Attendees: Sigrid Jones, Carol Meeuwse, David Glass, Don Garnand, Dave Rehnberg, Bill Dipple, Ron Lewis, Donna Venning, Tim Bryant, Kylee Heinz, Phil Conrod, Al Stever, Michael Ahlen, Phynisha Moss, Jeanna Stuart, Jeff Nelson, Nadine Fujimoto, Scott Franzen, Sarah Jackson, Emily Sundstrom, Garth Gill, Lee Anna Jackson, Stacey Fokkema, Kevin Reid, Dalvinder Deol, Sean Hummell, Cathy Ward, Brian Ward, Christian Glatt, Mila Tili, Roger (?), Marianne (?), Eboni (?), Elizabeth (?).

The meeting was called to order at 6:12pm with opening prayer by Julie Franzen.

Minutes:

Approval of February 2020 General and Executive Minutes. Motion to approve: None; Seconded: None. Minutes approved as revised/submitted by unanimous vocal vote. No other actions or approvals were conducted.

President's Report, Bruce Kelly:

LLPC – Carol Meeuwse reported that two preschool classes and childcare have been closed to cut expenses.

MVPC – David Glass reported that staffing shifts have matched current student levels; MVCP is now providing childcare services to some first-responders.

KVE – Don Garnand reported that the transition from classroom to online teaching went very well.

MVE – David praised his teachers for their efforts to move to online, and also praised some who are looking to help people/families outside the RCS community.

A question was raised at this time by parent Garth Gill about whether the school plans to continue online teaching following the Easter break if Washington state is still in



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lockdown. Bruce Kelly replied that RCS plans to continue online teaching/learning per the normal 19/20 school calendar, i.e. we will teach through this school year regardless of whether online or back in classroom.

RCMS – Don reported that the middle school also transitioned well to online teaching, and that he is working to make chapel available online as well; he will need to fill English and Social Studies positions next school year.

RCMS – Dave Rehnberg reported how pleased he was with the high school faculty and staff's ability to transition online, and praised the Ahlens, Phil Conrod, and Samantha Skiens for their help; he is committed to ensuring that seniors accomplish all their classwork necessary for graduation; he is looking at options for Graduation Day, such as a "drive-in" style event.

Ron Lewis shared his appreciation at this time, thanking Dave Rehnberg, the high school staff, and Bruce Kelly for how they've been able to keep the school up-and-running with minimal downtime during the transition from classroom to online.

RCS-wide – enrollment was briefly up to 401 before the effect of the closure of some preschool classes.

Athletics – Tim Bryant reported that he's been in discussion with many other Athletic Directors on how to salvage spring sports, including the idea of a round robin tournament when students are able to come back together; he is still working on the Fireworks fundraiser; the Booster Club voted to help with a shuttle bus transmission issue which ended up being less expensive than expected.

Don Garnand asked if Tim had heard anything about middle school sports, and Tim reported that he hadn't heard anything regarding that.

Finances – February net loss of ~\$11K.

Garth Gill asked if RCS was looking into COVID-19 stimulus funds, and Al Stever replied that he is looking into CARES act details alongside our banking partner at Chase.

Sarah Jackson then asked if there would be any tuition relief should the school be impacted past Easter/April; Bruce replied that as long as teachers are providing teaching, even if via online, they need to be paid, so cutting tuition would affect that.



He also said that Kery Wong has refunded families impacted by the preschool and daycare closures.

Phynisha Moss then raised a concern about the level of education RCS is able to provide via online teaching (i.e., if it's the same level as in-classroom), and worried about the consistency of teaching at all levels, and wondered if tuition should remain the same if the product being delivered isn't the same; Bruce responded that RCS is committed to providing excellent teaching regardless of classroom vs. online, and the principals are monitoring the teaching as they would if it was in the classroom. Bill Dipple offered his experience as a teacher, that indeed teachers are meeting with their principals daily.

Kylee Heinz reiterated Sarah Jackson's concern regarding tuition, stating that during this time many families will be impacted financially due to job loss or cutback in hours, and that she hoped RCS would show more grace in making tuition adjustments; Board member Rick Rosenkranz said he would make sure this topic was addressed in the Executive Board meeting.

HR – Sigrid Jones reported that all Fair Labor Standards Act impacts have been preempted by COVID-19 related issues; unemployment claims are being filed by laid-off employees, with an as-yet-undetermined impact due to those claims.

Tech – Michael Ahlen praised all RCS staff for their ability to transition to online teaching, including those who were initially apprehensive. There is a potential for FACTS integration with Google Classroom, which could ease some of the burden for teachers; he plans to do a free-trial test of it.

President – Bruce reported that the staff created seven criteria that the curriculum must meet for the K-6 ELA/Reading program; he has received a bid to paint the inside/outside of the KVE gym (~\$25K); he and the Board will be exploring cost-sharing ideas with Seattle Christian and Pacific Christian Academy as we all try to get through this difficult time; Bruce is hoping to meet with councilmember Dunn regarding the 4:1 application for the property at Maple Valley; the spring auction will shift from in-person events to mobile bidding; the For Parents link received 173 hits this month; there are five new students at RCHS.

Open discussion time with attendees:

- 1) Stacey Fokkema raised a concern that completing volunteer hours might be difficult given COVID-19 distancing; for instance, she was planning on getting her hours at the live auction. Bruce replied that they are looking at adjusting the volunteer hour



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requirement given the drop in volunteer opportunities, and that he would have an answer by the end of April.

- 2) Ron Lewis asked if we were going after any grant money, and Bruce replied that he had looked at several last year but almost 90% of grant issues want no religious affiliations. He has also looked at grant writing partners, but has been unsuccessful in finding anyone. Ron then clarified that there are funds available from Christian foundations/individuals, and Kent Bruce replied that we are limited by our resources and don't have a grant writer. Ron said that maybe someone could pay for a grant writer, and offered to look into potential foundations and bring some recommendations to the Board.

General session closed at 7:46pm with prayer by Bruce.

Next General Board Meeting: April 28, 6:00pm – location KVE (or via Zoom).