

Siouxland Christian School Regular Session Minutes

Date: May 24, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Siouxland Christian School

Present: Dr. Lindsay Laurich, Superintendent

Jeremy Mills, Principal

Brandon Reynolds, Chair

Chad Eisenga, Vice Chair (absent)

Jay Hoogendyk

Carla DeRoos

Jennifer McCune, (absent)

Bryan Stocking

The meeting was **opened in prayer** by Bryan.

Jay motioned, Carla 2nd, and all **approved the previous Board Minutes**.

New Business

Lindsay provided an update on school events and end of year updates. There are 15 seniors graduating from SCS this year. The school also planned a Zoo Day at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. Lindsay stated that there are many upcoming meetings and that tomorrow night she was hosting the One Bright Night fundraiser at her home for the pre-school with approximately 50 people planning to attend.

Katie Trimble provided preschool updates to the Board. She noted that Preschool/Kindergarten Roundup events have been going good. She stated that the construction on the new preschool was also going well and that she currently has 54 preschoolers signed up already for the 2021/2022 school year. Katie also stated that SCS is a finalist for a United Way Grant of \$25,000. Buildout of the preschool is right at \$1,000,000. The HVAC ran to \$174,000 with 3 Trane units to be here by mid-July for installation. The Board was also advised that an outdoor play area is a requirement for the preschool.

Annette Goetsch provided a review of the financial reports for the Board. She reviewed the February thru April balance sheets, and the profit and loss budget performance. Jay motioned to approve the financials as presented, Carla 2nd, all approved.

Superintendent Report:

Admissions/Enrollment: Lindsay advised the Board of the kindergarten enrollment for the 2021/2022 school year is currently at 28 students and is continuing to go up with much interest in SCS. SCS secondary grades (junior high and high school) student to teacher ratios are good and can handle more growth without increasing teachers. Elementary grades have some concerns with class sizes as the growth is very strong. Kindergarten will be split into two classes in 2021/2022 with the addition of another kindergarten teacher.

Teaching and Learning: Jeremy stated that SCS will eliminate Iowa Assessments and will move to MAP scores. SCS will be purchasing a new math curriculum for K-5. Nick Brown has been doing class scheduling with students and is nearly done with the freshman class. Jeremy stated that we now know the fall and spring

dates for SAT testing. SCS will now be able to offer calculus for students through Dordt University. Mystery Science will be used by the school next year in addition to a new math curriculum.

Instructional Technology: SCS will go with newer and nicer Chrome Books next school year along with bags to store them in and better protect them from damage. Grade Guardian has been purchased for next year and will give a proactive look at students. Grade Guardian can attach to CANVAS. The school will continue on with CANVAS and training for the teachers. SeeSaw will be used for K-5 students and Brightside Preschool. CANVAS for 6-12th students.

Financial Development: NITSCO tax write-off went from 65% to 75%, a great benefit to donors. SCS receives about \$188,000 from NITSCO at this time.

Committee Reports:

Education: Jay presented 11 items that were addressed by the Education Committee:

1. Marjo presented a computer proposal from preschool to seniors with iPads and HP chrome books being utilized. Purchase would occur with COVID funds that were received and allowed to be used to purchase technology.
2. Curriculum: the elementary teachers evaluated their math curriculum and science (Foss). The Admin and teachers decided they would like to switch to Envision Math and Mystery Science curriculums. These changes are being worked on toward implementation next school year.
3. Grade Guardian will be used alongside of Canvas to help identify struggling students and make sure they do not slip between the cracks. This will be mainly used by Admin and School Counselor.
4. MAP testing will be considered for next year in lieu of Iowa Basic Standardized Testing. Price is similar, IBST is once a year with delayed results, MAP allows students to be tested 3 times a year with next day results, and MAP allows for testing of new incoming students to see where they are academically. This will involve teacher training to be conducted.
5. Due to increased 1st grade enrollment, consideration will be brought before the Board for a second classroom. This will fill the last open classroom space.
6. Finding future classroom space will need to be a Board priority during this next year. If we are going to be able to handle further growth, classroom space will need to be found or developed.
7. Proposal for a Senior “work release” agreement for students and parents who want their Senior’s afternoon open periods to be used to work a job. Discussion held to see if we can change this to an “intern” type of position that had a grading component completed by employer.
8. Graduation date next year was proposed to be moved a week earlier (May 13th) to avoid athletic conflict next year.
9. Spoke about the surveys conducted on for our accreditation process. Results will be presented to the Board in the next few weeks.
10. Admin, counselor, and teachers will be involved in reviewing and updated our scoring for class rankings.
11. An audit of our partnership with homeschool families was conducted. It was found that these families are only utilizing elective classes and no core classes. With our increased enrollment and now fuller class sizes, it is believed that we must enforce our rule that homeschool students only participate if the class is not full. Also a homeschool student must take two core classes before they can take an elective class. More discussion is necessary at the Board level.

Athletic: The athletic committee was advised that interviews were being completed to fill the boys basketball coaching position. Alex Scandrett would be filling the Athletic Director position and Matty Wright was hired to be the next volleyball coach.

Spiritual Emphasis: Lindsay scheduled a Spiritual Emphasis Zoom meeting with Carla DeRoos, Kerri Grant, Angie Spake, Jared Graham, Ashtyn Ackerman, Jeremy Mills, and Bryan Stocking. The two Board members were informed by staff of what resources are currently used by staff in spiritual/Biblical training of students and their thoughts on the materials currently used. Mrs. Grant stated that she uses "Route 66" for the 6th grade and that she likes the material. Next year she will be using "Walking in Truth" for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This book covers the pillars of faith and Mrs. Grant really likes this book as well. Mr. Graham stated that he teaches 5 courses. He uses "Life of Christ" a book that covers the book of John and covers the basics of the life of CHRIST. He stated he is satisfied with this book and uses it for the 9th graders. A new book this year was "Hope for GOD's Kingdom." He likes this book a lot as it covers the old testament the first semester and the new testament for the second semester. He also teaches from "Understanding the Times" which covers the Christian, Muslim, and New Age world views. He stated that "Understanding the Faith" was a good addition and is used for the sophomore and junior courses. He stated that most of the seniors do "Live Fully", but he does not feel that is as good as the other books Mr. Graham teaches from. He stated that "Life Shaping Decisions" he considers to be the weakest book that he teaches from and that it needs to be updated. Mrs. Spake stated that the elementary students have had the same curriculum for the past 16 years. Each teacher concentrates on different Bible characters. It assumes all kids know all the background. She feels it needs to be updated. She stated it is very simple, but new students would be lost. She also stated that "Building Life Castles" what is covered in that book has nothing to do with what they memorize for scripture. Mrs. Ackerman feels that switching to "Elementary Summit" would be a lot of work for the teachers. Mrs. Spake commented that it doesn't do well as a discussion starter. Lindsay requested that each person on the Zoom call needed to ponder what is the goal of the school's spiritual emphasis? Mrs. Grant stated that every teacher should have the book "Beyond Biblical Integration" by Summit Ministries. Carla shared a great podcast with the group titled "Preaching the Word in a Culture of Narcissism" by White Horse Inn.org that stated things really well concerning the current generation we are raising. Too many kids, and adults, are getting a watered down or warped Christianity to fit their own beliefs to make them feel good. Kids need to understand they can rely on the Bible and it's truth.

Building and Grounds: Brandon shared that the weight room will need a window and fire escape installed to meet the safety codes. A hood will be installed for the new sculpting class. The floor in the science room has been ripped up and will be ground, polished, and sealed. He stated that Sarah Boesch would like to be in the old portable building. She has books for 3rd graders and up for a library. She would like book shelves and places for kids to sit. She will do much of the painting and cleaning to refurbish the building into a workable classroom.

A motion was made for the Building and Grounds Committee to be able to **sort thru the things stored in the portable building and dispose of things no longer needed** by the school to clear the area for Mrs. Boesch's classroom. Jay motioned to approve, Carla 2nd, all approved. Motion passed.

A motion was made to **allocate \$19,714 for refurbishing the portable shed** for a school library and Mrs. Boesch's classroom. Jay motioned, Carla 2nd, all approved. Motion passed

A motion was made to **install a window into the weight room and install a fire escape for \$12,674.67**. Jay motioned, Carla 2nd, all approved. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting is set for June 21st at 6:00 PM.

Regular Meeting was **adjourned** at 7:18 PM.

Approved: _____, Board Chair