

**Lumen Christi School Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Topic</b>	School Commission Meeting
<b>Date</b>	24 February 2021
<b>Time</b>	06:35 pm – Start 08:04pm – Adjourn
<b>Attendees</b>	Kelly Fyfe, Kim Althaus, Megan DeGuire, Craig Miller, Beth Crowley, Paul Manning, John Germano, Dave Sortino, Nancy Maciolek, Lisa Kass, Julie McCarragher, Joe Russell
<b>Absent</b>	Steve Sewart, Angie Lenzen

**1). Open Session – Parent COVID Input:**

Chad Zehms M.D. and Scarlett Johnson-Glaser asked to attend School Commission as guest speakers to provide their perspective on COVID protocols at Lumen Christi (LC).

- Dr. Zehms stated he would like to discuss both the medical and the evidence-based reasons for moving forward and loosening COVID restrictions at Lumen Christi School starting in Fall 2021. Both parents feel strongly that a return to normalcy is needed, especially given the data that has come out over the past year.
- Dr. Zehms applauded the LC teachers and staff for all that they have done and continue to do for our children to keep them in school, in person, all year.
- Ms. Johnson-Glaser added that kids present a low risk. Based on a compilation of studies, we have been bombarded with positive data regarding children and COVID. A UW study of 30K high school athletes came back with one case attributed to sports activities. We need to start down the path of unwinding mitigations. Asymptomatic spread is also not a significant factor. We need to take a science-based approach vs. a fear-based response. *Please see the reference materials provided by Ms. Johnson-Glaser during the session for more detailed information.*
- Dr. Zehms stated we need a shift in mentality regarding the way we’re thinking of COVID. Thinking about other data sets is important – including mental illness and depression. The rate of infection in the country dropped 75% in last six weeks; we are close to herd immunity. We need an end point, an exit ramp to get us back to normalcy. For example, athletics at LC in the fall. We need to be planning right now for this normalcy. The data is a message of hope! He added that LC is much better than MTSD, and asked that LC continue to be a leader in this area.
- Kelly Fyfe thanked Dr. Zehms and Ms. Johnson-Glaser for coming and sharing their data, as well as their passionate thoughts and opinions. There are tough decisions to be made going forward, and Kelly is hopeful things will look different in the fall. There will be much communication and collaboration in this planning.

**2). Closed Session:**

**Enrollment, COVID and Social Distancing – Megan DeGuire, Kim Althaus**

- Megan stated that the level of interest in LC has been amazing, and very high, even as our recruitment efforts were different this year.
- We have many prospective families contacting LC for next year. This brings up a unique challenge, assuming we have the same physical constraints as this year.
- If we accept everyone, we will be at 342 students. We’re at 325 this year.

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- We are graduating a class of 34 this year (last year was 19). Enrollment has leveled out over the last 5 years (in the range of 305-320). This would be a big increase, and there is currently a wait list for several classes.
- In the 5K for 2021-2022 – we have 26 re-registrations from 4K, plus 6 families that pulled from 4K this year due to COVID concerns, which would put us at 32; capacity is 30.
- Also, there are 4 families on wait list – new families to school, 3 are alumni, bringing siblings.
- We don't want to turn away current families.
- Administration's recommendation is that we accept the families without contingency. There is always the possibility for withdrawals, and we will figure something out in worst case scenario (Swap classrooms, re-configure rooms, split into 3 sections of 5K, etc.).
- Kelly Fyfe added that going over our capacity goes against LC Policy. This would only apply to the incoming 5K class, and is only based on the current situation and physical distancing constraints. She requested a vote from the Commission on this matter.
- **Motion to accept the over-capacity recommendation for 5K given by Nancy Maciolek, seconded by Dave Sortino. School Commission unanimously approved.**

### **CDC Return to School Policy (7 Day) – Paul Manning**

- Recommendation is that **close contacts** may return to school after Day 7 if ALL of the following requirements are met:
  - The close contact is tested on Day 5 of quarantine or later.
  - The test is a PCR test.
  - The test result is negative and documentation is provided to the school.
- This is in alignment with the CDC's change in December and the recommendation of the Washington-Ozaukee Health Department.
- In the situation of whole class quarantine, the return to school will be dependent on the status of the teacher's return.
- Kim Althaus stated that when the Commission met last month, test result documentation was lacking, but there is now much better availability of testing resources and documentation.
- **Motion to accept the Return to School for Close Contacts Recommendation given by Paul Manning, seconded by Nancy Maciolek. School Commission unanimously approved.**

### **Middle School Discussion – Julie McCarragher**

- Julie stated that student movement between classrooms is desired for next year; teachers want their classrooms back. Presently with cohorts, the teachers move between rooms.
- Commission members asked if it was possible to transition back to this mode this year. Kim Althaus stated it would be very difficult to undo all of the work that was done over the summer for the remainder of this school year, as furniture and classrooms were significantly reconfigured. Kelly Fyfe added the 2 minute passing period between classes would make it very hard to track minutes of exposure time.
- We need to consider DHS guidance as well as Archdiocese mandates/guidelines. What will we follow next year? Guidelines vs. mandates? Kelly added that the Arch has not updated their guidelines since August; she has repeatedly asked them when new guidance is forthcoming.

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- Kelly stated things will be different in the fall, specifics to come in the next couple of months (Sports, mixing classes, lunchroom, etc.).
- When do we want to communicate to our families what fall will look like? Kelly responded the Administration will come up with a list of things that need to change, and what we have flexibility around and we will continue this discussion at the next Commission meeting.
- Commission also discussed mixing grade-level cohorts at recess (e.g. all of 5<sup>th</sup> grade could play together). Middle school is already mixing.
- Kelly recommended this change be introduced after spring break.
- **Motion to accept the mixing of grade-level cohorts at recess (5K- 5<sup>th</sup>) given by Nancy Maciolek, seconded by Lisa Kass. School Commission unanimously approved.**
- Kelly also mentioned that for Trimester 3, there are only 3 kids on virtual.
- Question asked if we really have to quarantine whole grade with a positive case. How clear is our obligation? Kelly responded we are following Health department directives to contact trace.

### Admin Update – Kelly Fyfe

- Kelly Fyfe stated that some slight changes to the 2021-2022 School Calendar have come up since the Commission reviewed and approved the calendar at the January meeting:
  - Two half days have been added to be used if COVID protocols are in place. The time will be used for teachers to work and collaborate. If COVID protocols are not in place these will become full days of instruction (September 16<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>).
  - Christmas Break is shortened by one day. Students and staff will return on January 4<sup>th</sup>
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> has been added as a teacher in-service day.
- **Motion to accept the 2021-2022 School Calendar changes given by Lisa Kass, seconded by Beth Crowley. School Commission unanimously approved.**

### 3). Committee Updates: No Committee Updates

#### 2020-2021 Meeting Dates:

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Commission Members / Committees:

- President – Craig Miller
- Secretary – Beth Crowley
- Finance – Paul Manning
- Development – Steve Sewart, Angie Lenzen
- Evaluation – Nancy Maciolek
- Technology – Open
- Policy – Dave Sortino, Beth Crowley, Lisa Kass

Pastoral Council Liaison – Joe Russell

Faculty Representative – Julie McCarragher