

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Voters Meeting Minutes
05.22.2023

Attendance: 77 (12 new members)

Meeting was called to order by Tom Ruff at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom Roma opened the meeting with comments on 2 Corinthians 4:4-8 and prayer.

Pastor Roma acknowledged Dr. Allison Dolak, Immanuel Lutheran School - Wentzville principal, on the recognition shown to her recently as an inductee into the Lutheran High School of St. Charles County Hall of Honor.

Attendees reviewed the Minutes of the January 30, 2023, Voters Meeting. Rod Kumm made the motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Dick Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Election of three BOD members to begin in July 2023

Tom Ruff thanked the 2023 Nominating Committee for their efforts in presenting a strong slate of candidates for the BOD election. Tom recognized each nominee: Sean Costello, Grant Goris, Tom Guenzler, Russ Hoppe, Becky Hoskins, and Brian Parker. Tom recognized outgoing BOD members Chris Hall and Joel Mueller who are rolling off the BOD; and Grant Goris, who is completing his first three-year term and is a 2023 nominee. Votes were collected for tally.

Extension of Call – Middle School teacher Abigale Freund

Allison Dolak commented on Immanuel Lutheran School current student teacher Abigale Freund. Additional staffing is needed due to the number of middle schoolers (130); middle school is considered 6th-8th grades. Abigale is strong in the needed areas of math and science. Requesting a call to be extended to Abigale Freund for the 2023-2024 year.

Carole Vahsholtz inquired about the beginning salary for a new Immanuel Lutheran School teacher. Allison Dolak and Tom Ruff commented that salary is set and in line according to the Missouri District LCMS compensation guidelines for a ten-month contract.

Nancy Minton asked if Abigale is synodical trained. Ms. Freund received her education at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Kris Schuldt made the motion to extend a call to Abigale Freund as a middle school teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School Wentzville for the 2023-2024 school year. Nancy Minton seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Brief Updates

BOD and Long Term Planning (LTP) Update – Tom Ruff invited BOD member Grant Goris to present an updated on the parking lot expansion project.

Grant Goris commented on St. Charles County approving the set of submitted plans, which take into account new ordinances and design issues regarding water run-off. Final costs compared to the original plans are under review. Voters will be advised if changes occur in costs. Karrenbrock is ready to begin work as soon as the final approved permit is received.

- A question was asked regarding the addition of a second entrance/exit into the campus. Additional entrances are planned within the central parking lot itself, but no secondary access to Highway N is included in this project.
- Mike Dwyer inquired as to the number of bids solicited for the project. Grant stated three bids were received.
- Rod Kumm requested clarification regarding concrete versus asphalt.

Executive Director position – Tom Ruff commented on the Executive Director position job description. The writing of the description is running along in parallel with the LTP. The LTP committee is moving through a ministry clarity process to address Immanuel’s ministry needs, as well as facility needs. To ensure that no gaps occur in the position responsibilities, the writing of the job description is tabled until the outcome of that process is finalized. The LTP committee continues to work with Immanuel ministry leadership. Details will follow.

Long Term Planning Committee – Tom welcomed any questions, noting that since the last voters meeting, the Committee is partnering with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF):

- LCEF has gone through the long-term planning process many times with many congregations.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church – Wentzville looks to leverage LCEF’s experience in determining Immanuel’s future needs.
- Voting members will hear more about the “ministry clarity process” in the coming months.
- The process will move forward with the intent leading to addressing the right things. In that, two needs have already been identified as important:
 - Land acquisition (entrance off Highway N) – Land owners around Immanuel’s campus have been contacted. A thoughtful reply from one current landowner was received stating they are not currently ready to carve off a piece of their property. The land owner does understand Immanuel’s facility needs.
 - Administrative space needs — office and gathering space, e.g., staff use, youth activities, Bible studies. While the Committee is considering options, it will not move forward with space plans until the ministry clarity process is completed.

Dan Hoskins inquired about the water runoff in the parking lot expansion plans with regard to the concern raised previously by an adjacent homeowner. Tom Ruff and Grant Goris described the revised overflow design. A letter was sent to the land owner, who raised the concern, inviting them to review the plans. Currently no need to review.

Mike Dwyer asked about specific land owners being contacted. Tom Ruff and Allison Dolak commented on the need for additional land in conjunction with entrance/exit access.

ELECTION RESULTS: Tom Ruff reported on the BOD election results. New BOD members to fill the three open three-year terms (2023-2026) are Grant Goris, Russ Hoppe, and Becky Hoskins. Tom expressed appreciation to each person who put their name forward as a nominee.

Pastor Jason Auringer Update – Pastor Auringer stated he had no additional updates, other than the ministry clarity process already discussed and forming a committee to work with LCEF. Pastor Auringer commented that all staff job descriptions will be reviewed to ensure alignment with ministry needs.

Allison Dolak Update – Allison commented on the last day of the 2022-2023 school year (May 25), 34 Eighth Graders and 33 Kindergarten students graduated. Teachers will finish up their work through this next week. Immanuel will begin the school accreditation process in the following weeks. Anticipated 2023-2024 enrollment includes an additional 20 students.

Amy Schuldt asked about the school being “maxed out.” Allison Dolak commented that Immanuel could essentially have 50 more students, but that number would affect the quality of education and what Immanuel can do best. In essence, each grade level could hold 46 students. However, the different learning needs for each student affects the best number of students per grade level.

Treasurer’s Report – Carol Waddell presented the Treasurer’s Report commenting on the positive giving. Five Sundays remain in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Anticipate church and school receipts to exceed budget, with expenses anticipated to be below budget due to effective staff management.

Jim Meyer inquired about the Capital Expansion Fund and funds set aside for the sanctuary and balcony improvement projects. Debbie Anderson, Director of Finance, commented that funds set aside for both the sanctuary and balcony improvements came out of the Expansion Fund account.

Dick Schroeder made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Kevin Heneghan seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

2023-2024 Budget Proposal

Debbie Anderson provided clarification on the Capital Expansion Fund, including the sanctuary and balcony improvement funds.

Debbie Anderson presented the 2023-2024 Budget, speaking to General Contributions and an overall increase of \$500,000 in the 2023-2024 budget from the previous year. Increases are largely attributed to insurance, salaries, an additional position, and the increase in student enrollment.

Tom Modde asked for clarification on building insurance. Voting member Sue Ebert comment on the limited number of insurance brokers. Debbie Anderson provided further clarification on the number of insurers of a church facility of Immanuel’s size.

With no further discussion, Tom Ruff asked for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget.

Rod Kumm made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented. Tim Hennessey seconded the motion.

Mike Dwyer expressed appreciation to all those involved in preparing the detailed budget.

With no further discussion, the Motion as presented was approved by unanimous vote.

There being no additional business, Tom Ruff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Schroeder made the motion to adjourn. Kevin Heneghan seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology.

HANDOUTS:

- Meeting Agenda
- January 30, 2023 Voters Meeting Minutes
- Budget Proposal
- BOD ballot