National Lutheran School Accreditation

District Accreditation Commission

January 8, 2022

*MINUTES ARE ITALICIZED.*

1. Opening Prayer – Emily
* *Psalm 103 & Organization*
1. Welcome / Introductions / Contact Information:

Emily Anderson

eanderson@immanuelsilo.org

507-358-6086 (mobile)

Dan Kuball - *updated*

dakuball@rcls.net

507-254-0659 (mobile)

Natalie Marose

myfriendsccc@gmail.com

952-994-7063 (mobile)

Sean Martens - *updated*

sean.martens@mnsdistrict.org

952-435-2152 (office)

Kevin Wilaby - *updated*

kevin.wilaby@mayerlutheran.org

952-657-2251 ext. 1008 (office)

1. *Sharing and updating on our lives. Sean shared the hiring of a district communication person and talked about the district beginning a strategic planning process.*
2. Approval of Minutes - *Motion by Natalie, second by Dan, approved by all.*
3. Secretary – *No one volunteered.*
4. Tentative Visit Schedule
* *Stephanie Wilaby would be a good team member for an Early Childhood Center visit.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School | Location | Dates Requested | *Consultant – column added* | Team Members |
| Immanuel Lutheran | Lewiston | April 4-6 | *Clet Pfeiffer* | *Sean Martens* |
| RCLS | Rochester | March 7-9 | *Kelly Lamkin* | Brenda LovhaugKelly Lamkin*Sean Martens* |
| King of Kings | Roseville | Oct. 2021 | *Clet Pfeiffer* | COMPLETED! |
| Concordia Academy | Roseville | April 20-22 | *Clet Pfeiffer* | Kris Gustin *Sean Martens* |
| St. James | Northrop | tbd | *Barb Matthees* |  |
| St. Paul | Truman | tbd | *Elaine Lieder* |  |
| St. Paul | Fairmont | tbd | *Wade Stockman* |  |
| \*Our Saviors | Excelsior | tbd | *Brenda Lovhaug / Emily Anderson* |  |
| \*Loving Shepherd | Golden Valley | March ? | *Lost consultant – Tent. Natalie Marose* | *Sean Martens* |
| Trinity Lutheran | Waconia | April 27-29 | *Scott Johnson* | *Sean Martens* |
| *Woodbury Lutheran Preschool* | *Woodbury* |  | *Tent. Natalie Marose* |  |

1. Provisional Schools - Immanuel Lutheran, Lakefield, MN, was approved for provisional accreditation at the NAC in July 2021.
* *Concern was not enforcing mask mandate. That mandate is no longer in existence. What does the committee need to do to remove the provisional status? Ask Jason to send us their current COVID procedures/what they have shared with staff and families. Emily will reach out and request a copy.*
* *Larger question: What happens when government mandates infringe on what we fundamentally believe as Christians in light of our Lutheran doctrine? What is the impact on accreditation and what standards would need adjusting?*
1. Challenges
	1. Lack of consultants to meet needs of increased interest among early childhood programs/centers.
		1. No MN South school has yet had a visit with new process
		2. Most current consultants are either already consulting with a school and/or going through their own visit this spring
* *Need more consultants for NLSA Early Childhood Center*
* *Tap into the centers that are completing the NLSA Early Childhood Center process currently to get their directors to be consultants and/or team members.*
1. Voluntary Lapse
	1. St. Peters, Edina, has decided not to renew this year.
* *Staffing issues and decreased enrollment are the reasons Sean perceives to exist. Emily will reach out.*
* *Parent Aware System: Once accredited you are automatically 4 stars – getting higher rates for assistance. Reason to accredit.*
1. Potential Fall Visits
	1. Woodbury Lutheran - EC
		1. Haven’t secured a consultant
* *See chart above. Natalie Marose may serve in this capacity. Visit in fall.*
1. Virtual Training
	1. Oct. 7, 2021 - Dr. Rebecca Schmidt led a virtual training covering the NLSA process and a broad overview of the various roles and responsibilities
	2. Links to two trainings are available
* *Emily will send links to committee.*
1. Reports
	1. Review of NAC Meetings
		1. July 2021-
			1. Candidate Review Process with primary & secondary readers
			2. Candidate Review teams had training and meetings twice prior to NAC
	* *a & b describe how NAC members reviewed information on schools recommended for accreditation.*
		+ 1. Virtual visits - only for extenuating circumstances (discouraged)
	* *Sean and Emily would review requests and determine if virtual visit can occur.*
		+ 1. Pandemic Extension eliminated
	* *Martin County schools can’t use this again. They need to complete the accreditation process or their accreditation will lapse.*
		+ 1. Task Forces
				1. Fee structure
* *Where accreditation fee money going? How is it being used? Is it a profit generating proposition for Synod?*
	+ *The accreditation leadership position is filled by Becky Schmidt. This is funded by the NLSA accreditation fees. Al Freeman has been added to the office (not funded by accreditation fees).*
* *New Armature System (online) is being funded by accreditation fees. This expense is why fee structure is increasing.*
* *Encourage transparency of how accreditation fees are being used.*
* *Technology position at synodical level is currently not filled. (Running of LuthEd website was a key responsibility and the Armature Project).*
	+ - * 1. Secondary/HS process in development
* *There is a finance piece (standard) being worked on.*
	+ - * 1. 126 schools accredited (total of 678)
		1. Dec 2021
			1. Staff changes
				1. Alan Freeman - Associate Director
				2. Katie Ervin - School Ministry Coordinator
			2. Discussion about standard 4:02 & the difficulty of having rostered teachers
* *Seminar through CUEnet is like colloquy, but you don’t have to be Lutheran. Get the training without the commitment to becoming Lutheran. This is to address to some degree the staffing situation of rostered or roster-able workers.*
	+ *Could districts orientate hired educators who are not members of the LCMS? Sean indicated there are discussions at the district level.*
* *3b:02 This is not a required standard. However, the administrator must be rostered, have administrator licensure or working towards it, and member of LCMS congregation/LCMS Lutheran.*
	+ - 1. Task Force updates
1. Open for Discussion *- None*
2. Next Meeting: *June 4, 2022 9:00 AM (Zoom style)*
3. Closing Prayer - Emily

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,*

*Kevin Wilaby*