



Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting Minutes

August Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2023

7:00 PM Eastern Time

General Meeting

Attending: Shannon Stein-Superintendent, Gary Morris, Elizabeth Timkovich, Craig Randall, Nicole Benford, Ridgley Chapman, Michael Eastwood, Amy Carr, Greg Kilpatrick, Jared Tilley

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Amy Carr

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes approved by unanimous consent vote.

I. State/School Report

- A. Elementary school playground surface upgrade is complete due to a grant. It now has a rubberized surface, so now there is no more mud.
- B. Last year K and 6th did an activity together and then went to the zoo together. They will continue with 1st and 7th and the new group 1st and 6th. More specifics to come.
- C. There are 10 new staff members who started their orientation on Wednesday.
- D. Our team assisted in a program which helped take kids off the streets to keep them out of gangs. Part of the program is computers, so LNC is a part of this. Follow-Up: Computer donation to Honduras: The Honduran Life Center.
- E. Mr. Smith was asked to serve on the NCHSAA task force.
- F. There is an impact report from the NC Coalition of Charter Schools which describes how they have been representing Charter Schools and Common Sense legislation decisions.
- G. The IDEA Committee will bring in Chris Singleton. He is a baseball player whose mother was killed in the Charleston shooting and he speaks about forgiveness. This is September 5 at 6:00 PM.
- H. LNC is hosting an interesting week in October. There will be a "Serve and Play" day. Parents can come on campus to assist with some beautification and some field day play activities.

II. Support Group Update

- A. PTO - Jamila Lindsey - 2023-2024 Grant Approvals were completed. Summer Bash in July was well attended and there was a lot of positive feedback. The Parent Ambassador program started in May and will continue into September. This week the PTO welcomed the new staff members. There will be a staff luncheon next week.
- B. Athletics - Matt Schlegel
 1. MS and HS football is up and running and the numbers are higher than they have been in years.
 2. Next week the new Field House will open. The premium seating will be sold for Elevate. The field house is state of the art and looks great. The concessions will be open as much as possible. We do need parents to volunteer to serve in the concessions for all events.
 3. Monday all HS sports started and teams are forming today and tomorrow. First varsity scrimmage will be next week. Games start the week of August 14 for the HS.

MS sports will start Monday, August 14 (with the exception of football--it started). Matt Montroy is a new varsity football coach for the HS. JC Brooks is the new varsity soccer coach. Carrie Snider is also a new coach. Booster membership is starting for the early bird sales. Monday, October 9 is the annual golf outing.

III. Old Business

A. Knight's Fund Update (Lay and Tilley)

WHERE ARE WE?: ELEVATE campaign total: 3,366,127. Expenditures: \$3,828,104 Cash in hand: \$3,100,998 Additional pledge balance: \$265,129. Increased project costs (3.8M), COVID (suspended campaign), less urgency because upgrades were completed. **WHAT'S NEXT?:** Option #1: Have the school step in and cover the difference. Option #2: Continue to look at the campaign fundraising (2-4 years). This would put newer projects on the back burner. The recommendation is that the school cover the additional costs to help maintain the excitement with fundraising and new projects. If we start a new fund it would be called "**Give Today; Build Tomorrow Knight's Fund Annual Drive.**" This would be an annual fund style drive. LNC would select 1-2 high-impact upgrades at each school, direct approximately \$200K in recurring annual gifts, and engage new donors and establish a giving habit. The school is currently in a positive position financially. If the Elevate spending has to be paid back, it may take up to 4 years. Is the goal with the high impact upgrade projects meant to be \$200K? In a sense, yes. LNC would come up with the items that will get people excited and LNC would collect the money prior to building. This would not be a capital campaign. If the school fell short with the fund raising, the funds would be used for other items or will roll over to the next year and the project would wait.

Motion to have LNC cover the difference of the capital projects and the cash in hand not to exceed \$500K by Jared Tilley; Nicole Benford seconded; motion approved.

IV. New Business

A. Technology Acceptable Use/Internet Safety Policy Update:

LNC receives E-Rate funding. There is a portion provided per pupil and these funds can be used for infrastructure for technology. LNC needs to update the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety policy in order to be eligible for additional funding.

Motion to adopt the technology acceptable use/internet safety policy by Greg Kilpatrick; Ridgley Chapman seconds; motion passes.

B. School Fee Policy:

Formalizing LNC's procedures to be consistent with N.C.G.S. Section 115(c)-238.29F(b). The policy has a provision to address families who may experience economic hardship.

Motion to approve the School Fee policy by Nicole Benford; Jared Tilley seconds; motion passes.

C. Elementary Expansion: Goal is to open another elementary school, which will allow for all LNC students to have a K-12 experience.

1. Reimbursement Resolution:

The first step is to complete a financial analysis. This is to check our borrowing power. Any costs incurred moving forward, we need to have a way to pay it back. The board has a packet for the reimbursement resolution. This is written to "not exceed \$20M."

Motion to approve the reimbursement resolution by Nicole Benford; Elizabeth Timkovitch seconds; motion passes.

2. Financial Advisor Recommendation:

This person would help with all things financial: searching for best cost, negotiations, communication, cost analysis, etc... LNC interviewed a few firms: Choice Advisors and First Tryon Advisors. Both were excellent. Because of price and negotiation experience, LNC has decided to go with Choice Advisors. LNC will have the legal counsel review the contract once the vendor is approved by the board.

Motion to approve signing a contract to retain the financial advisors from Choice Advisors by Elizabeth Timkovich; Nicole Benford seconds; motion passes.

The general meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.