



Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting Minutes
February Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2021
07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

General Meeting

Attending: Shannon Stein-superintendent, Rick Buckler, Jennifer Johnson, Jared Tilley, Stephanie Painter, Leslie Fogarty, Ridgley Chapman, Amy Carr, Greg Kilpatrick, Elizabeth Timkovich

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Rick Buckler

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January, 2021 minutes by Leslie Fogarty; Amy Carr seconds; motion carries.

I. PTO/Athletic Updates:

- A. PTO from Mrs. Burton: The PTO has a staff appreciation luncheon on Friday the 12th from "Its Total Events Catering," a small business. They are looking for a few volunteers. Lunch Program will resume on March 1. More information will go out tomorrow or this weekend. Distribution to the classrooms or from the window will be announced. LNCS PTO will fund for another year the LNC Student Directory to help families link together and communicate. Any PTO president can answer questions about this.
- B. Athletic Highlights: CC season ended. Women 2nd place at States. Swim will participate in regionals tomorrow. Men's and women's lacrosse are playing now. The football season will start on Monday. Athletics would like to allow fans to come in a limited capacity according to state plans and guidelines. Middle school sports: committed to getting spring season up and running. Transportation and facilities are some needs to get things running. They will also need to look and see if there are enough students to make a team. Communication will come out soon to parents to we can have tryouts towards the end of the month.

II. School/State Update:

- A. Eagle Scout Recognition: Several students have chosen to complete projects at the elementary school. Eric Chee, 8th grader: Painting a large map at the elementary school. He also raised additional funds and he donated that back to the school. Jay Blackwelder built a stair and walkway to the playing fields at the elementary and a brick pathway to the playground. Alex Nutter created a sitting area by the administration trailers.
- B. Silver Award winners for Girl Scouts: Claire Gustafson and Sara Freeman made "Buddy Benches" at the elementary school.
- C. High School Scholastic Art Winners: Gold Key & Silver Key Nicole Kazinec; Maya Dabney: Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention; Abigail Lake Silver Key for writing. On February 20 there will be an Award Ceremony.

III. Financial Update

- A. 2019-2020 Audit Review: Eric Smith with Potter and Company provided an overview of the audit. Highlights:
 - i. Page 7 Opinion: responsibilities for the auditors. They provided an unmodified opinion that these are correct. This is the highest level of assurance that this is correct

- ii. Page 58 Compliance Section: Because we received over \$500,000 state funding. They looked at the funds and how they were used. EC files, payroll, etc... There were no instances of non-compliance.
- iii. Page 16 Financials: exhibit 1: assets and liabilities 9.8 mil cash; AR and due from the government is up from last year, funding from local LEAs, restricted bond funds (3 million), capital assets (43 mil dollars), the deferred outflow of resources (state pension plan), accounts payable, PPP Loan (over a million), 39 million total debt (bond funding), State and government revenue, child care revenue, and the general fund for the year 22 million for the year altogether. Total expenditures: supplies, support services, facilities, interest on the debt (1.1 million: a decrease this year)
- iv. This report was submitted to the state and has been approved.

IV. Committee Updates:

- A. Campus Planning/Elevate: Loved one's garden and appreciation wall are completed at the elementary school, and the press box will be ready to use on Monday. Committee will meet tomorrow to look at the master campus list and mark some things off the list. The funds continue to flow in and we are grateful for that. Elevate funds in hand: \$911,056. The MS office remodel has just been completed.
- B. Global Diversity and Inclusion: Mrs. Chapman: In December there were teacher and student workshops: Guest Speaker Kristin Down spoke about body diversity. There was engagement with GD&I resources. Monthly programming at all school levels to discuss holidays around the world, Diverse Voices, MLK Day, Diversification of characters and narrators. In Jan: Continued discussion of body diversity and engagement with GD&I resources, all schools have a focus on Black History Month and leading into women's history month.
- C. Safe School Committee:
 - i. Discussion: The committee has been continuing to focus on the guiding principles and state guidance in making all decisions. Points to consider: They must use the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit. On October 5, 2020, K-5 has the option to go with Plan A, B, or C. Grades 6-12 Plan B or C options. On Tuesday there were some clarifications: Plan B for MS and HS and you must be able to socially distance the students.
 - ii. Since Jan 14, 2021:
 - a. Modified Stay at Home Order was extended through February 28.
 - b. Metrics for the county are trending in a stable and downward direction. (last updated 1/31/21).
 - c. Decrease in daily new COVID cases 610, down from 895.
 - d. Decrease in % positive 10.7% compared to 15.5%.
 - e. Hospitalizations are trending down.
 - f. Testing and turn around time has improved.
 - g. No documented cases of transmission to or from teachers and students within the classroom.
 - h. Meck County Health Department recommended schools remain virtual. This directive is still in effect, but the virtual requirement for schools has been removed.
 - i. The dashboard has been updated for the LNCS COVID dashboard.
 - j. Rapid Pilot Testing at school: We have used this for a few staff and students if they have met the criteria. Exposure or symptomatic, they can be tested. It is a rapid test that is either positive or inconclusive. It will be used for symptomatic students, teachers, or exposures to assist with decisions and contact tracing. This takes away the step of making a doctor appointment and getting rapid results to

use in the LNCS community.

- iii. New in Mecklenburg county: There is a confirmed case of the COVID-19 variant strain B.1.1.7
 - a. 2/2/21 Conference and recommendation: Gov. Cooper reiterated the priority to get students back in school. They defined hybrid. With masking, student cohorts, transmission risk is low. 10 and up needs to be able to socially distance.
- iv. Current Challenges: Virtual Learning shows limitations with engagement and a balance in delivery.
 - a. There has been an increased effort to target students for remediation.
 - b. Vaccination distribution delays: Not for school staff for several weeks. School staff was not prioritized in the next group. The administration has been trying to push Mecklenburg County to advocate for the teachers to be moved up on the vaccination schedule.
- v. Committee Recommendations:
 - a. Return to hybrid learning on February 8 for all students.
 - b. All sports will resume.
 - c. Start a plan to phase into plan A for the elementary school 4 days per week: February 22 K begin plan A (1-4 remain Hybrid); March 1, 1st grade begins plan A (2-4 remain hybrid), March 8, 2nd grade begins plan A (3-4 remain hybrid), March 16 all students K-4 are in plan A or chose to remain distant learners.
 - d. The slow transition is to get the facilities ready for safety: desks & tables need to be moved and plexiglas barriers will be installed. We need to prepare for additional cleaning. Carpool procedures need to be assessed. This will also allow us to look at our data as we phase in and make sure we are being successful and safe for students and teachers.
 - e. The option for distance learning still applies to all students. Currently, there are about 100 students in distance learning. Wednesday will be the day for teachers to support the distance learners and create the videos and materials for the distance learners and in-person students.
 - f. QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION:
 - 1) What will Wednesdays look like for the elementary students?
Interventions/remediation sessions will be put in place through Zoom. Some will be getting caught up with assignments. At the elementary level, this day will be primarily for distance learners.
 - 2) What will the length of the day look like? The school will keep the same hours we have at this time so we can accommodate all learners and keep up with communication. 8:05 carpool will start and will start again at 2:30.
 - 3) Questions: There will be multiple opportunities for questions: Coffee Chat/submit questions, and a FAQ will go out for all elementary families.
 - 4) How is the recommendation framed for the MS and the HS at this time?
Plan A is not an option for any school at these levels at this time. When they are options, we will consider them, but at this time, this is what we will do until we hear otherwise from the state/county. We will be constantly monitoring the situation and we will be making decisions based on the changing situation.
 - 5) Is there a tipping point where our teachers cannot maintain all of the distance learners on Wednesday only? We are doing the phase-in so we can see where our numbers actually are at this time and so we can make any adjustments we need. If we need additional resources, we will reassess to make sure there is success.

Motion to approve recommendations for hybrid restart on February 8 and a slow phase into plan A for the elementary school by Elizabeth Timkovich; seconded by Jennifer Johnson; motion carries.

V. New Business:

- A. Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) Annual Approval: All schools need this to show support for a new teacher in the first three years. They participate in this program to move to the next level as a teacher. Each beginning teacher has a mentor in their own building and the same content area when available. Building principals also provide support and PD. This is an ongoing program and this needs to be approved on a yearly basis.

Motion to approve recommendations for the BTSP by Amy Carr; seconded by Ridgley Chapman; motion carries.

- B. Proposed Calendar Change: There are three calendar changes, February 12, March 12 are listed as E-Learning Days. This was based on the state requirement. We want to recommend these become in-person days. April 23 was to be a half-day, but we would like to make this a full day in order to increase instructional time. Communication about these changes will come out tomorrow to parents and this will be posted to the webpage immediately.

Motion to approve recommendations for the calendar changes by Stephanie Painter; seconded by Jennifer Johnson; motion carries.

- C. E-Rate Audit and Policy: E Rate is a nationwide program that supplies funding to schools and libraries for broadband internet. We applied for \$275,000 to open the elementary school. Recently we were audited and they found our E Rate policy was deficient because the pricing was not the primary component. This must be the #1, highest priority to maintain E Rate Funding. We took this direction and made price the primary factor and changed our policy wording.

Motion to approve recommendations for the new wording for the E Rate Policy by Jared Tilley; seconded by Amy Carr; motion carries.

Motion to end the meeting at 8:58 PM by Elizabeth Timkovich; seconded by Amy Carr; motion approved.