



Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting
January Meeting Minutes
January 14, 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 7:04 PM by Rick Buckler

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the December 2020 minutes by Amy Carr; Jennifer Johnson seconds; motion carries.

Motion to approve the October Closed Session minutes by Leslie Fogarty; Ridgley Chapman seconds; motion carries

I. Public Comments

- A. Mr. Agosto: On behalf of the swim team parents. He would like to continue and complete the season - 2 meets and 2 championships. He wants the board to allow the kids to continue playing (swimming) so their season is not jeopardized and they can participate in once in a lifetime opportunities. Coach Issac will follow all protocols and will do whatever is necessary.
- B. Mr. Edens: Speaking about basketball and would like sports, specifically basketball, to continue. He feels they are following all of the protocols.

II. PTO Updates

- A. Old Business: The second virtual PTO meeting occurred and was well attended.
- B. Remaining PTO meetings are February 1, March 1, and April 19 at 6:30 and will continue to be virtual through the end of the year.
- C. Staff gifting was great this year. All faculty and staff were given \$104 Target gift cards.
- D. PTO Staff/Funding requests: supported enhancements in the virtual environment. Hoping they will be addressing in-class needs soon.
- E. Happy to announce they will have the first staff appreciation lunch on February 12. There will be box lunches in an outdoor space.
- F. Yearbook committee at the elementary school is working hard to create the book. It is \$30 until January 29, then up to \$35.
- G. Lunches will resume next Tuesday and they are 50% participation. Our top vendors at the elementary and middle school are North State BBQ and then Mamas. They are still in need of lunch volunteers.
- H. Spirit Wear: They are not ordering anything new right now, but may entertain an outdoor clearance sale when the weather is warm.

III. School/State Update

- A. LNCS is starting the school-wide COVID rapid antigen pilot. This will be good once we are

- back in hybrid to assist families and the health department.
- B. Staff continues to go above and beyond and think outside the box: Mrs. Mervine has been putting a virtual art show together and has continued the art club so the kids can still use this creative outlet. The Virtual LNC Alumni panel was just held and this went very well. Leigh Ann Williams runs this and controls the social media platforms. This opportunity was very well received.
 - C. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Stein have been asked to speak at Elon College about book censorship next week.

IV. Financial Update

- A. ELEVATE Budget Update: Remaining balance \$360,238 and will be used as we pay vendors. The press box is still under way: roof complete, security, interior work underway. Based on what we know today, we do not have any risks and we will be able to complete phases A-C1 on budget.
- B. Investment Strategy Update: Engaged in conversation with PNC (follow up) risk tolerance, peer benchmarking, cost/fees, account access/performance reviews. The committee also spoke with a third firm: with Raymond James Management Firm to discuss LNC's investment approach, needs, objectives, reviewed proposal, simulation, and cost/fees structure. Presented a chart representing how our peer group allocates their investment portfolios. Most of them invest in equities. We want to only do this at 30% instead of 50% as most do. We are more conservative. Next steps: Analyze optimal cost and portfolio management, prepare a recommendation for the board, partner with selected firm and revise the Investment policy statement, invite the firm to present the proposed policy statement to the board, and obtain board approval and fund the investment account.
- C. Family First Coronavirus Response Act: Two forms of leave required to offer to employees. Paid leave for COVID reasons. When it was enacted it ended December 31. They did extend these through March 31, 2021 and the employer can take tax credits. We need board approval to extend these two acts. This information will be updated in the handbook.

Motion to approve extension of the two forms of leave extended in the Family First Coronavirus Response Act by Jared Tilley; seconded by Jennifer Johnson; motion carries.

V. Committee Updates:

- A. Campus Planning/Elevate: Closing out the contract with Sprinter. The Press Box: There was some weather and COVID issues, but they are back on track now and making progress. This is expected to be complete in a week and a half.
- B. Safe School Committee:
 - i. Guidelines: Consider Health Driving Factors (LNC data, governor and health agencies, Trend in Meck county, regional hospitalizations, accessibility of COVID testing), other critical factors (information from staff, child pods, regional school data, safety protocol, social-emotional needs, staffing), additional considerations surveys, LNC community)
 - ii. Trends since last meeting: modified phase 3 extended, county metrics unfavorable, increase in COVID cases within 7 days approximately 895 now; up from 475 (11/29), Increase in positive cases 15.5%; up from 8.9%. Hospitalizations have increased from 205 to 521. Testing turnaround time for tests has remained consistent. The internal data is incomplete because of inconsistent reporting during winter break and remote learning, but our internal cases and exposures have remained consistent. SHIPMAN: Since the last meeting we have been mostly on remote or on break. We would like parents to continue to be transparent in their reporting so we can continue to make decisions on our data.

- iii. Mecklenburg County Health Update: Recommendations for three weeks of full virtual options for school and suspend sports activities during this directive.
- iv. Study: In-school transmission of SARS-CoV-2 are rare in schools implementing safety measures. Data indicates schools can operate if they adhere to safety policies. Transmission rates between teacher to teacher and student-student are minimal.
- v. COVID-19 County Alert System: Mecklenburg is in the red and we are medium for hospital systems.
- vi. This directive does affect even smaller schools and community spread. Not because the schools are not doing a good job, but all of the things people do when they move to and from school. Even with the best strategies in place, when the community spread is rampant, you run the risk of those protections not being as effective.
- vii. Feedback from medical professionals in the LNC community: There seems to be differing beliefs among the medical professionals. There are higher numbers in our LNC community over this remote period.
- viii. Teachers are doing an outstanding job submitting the information to Shipman.
- ix. MS survey data: 715 students participated. Students report seeing their teachers as a top benefit 78% and they understand the content better with their teachers 60%. Top two concerns: Hard to learn from home 39% and tough time finding a routine 36%. 71% feel they are progressing in plan B and 7% disagree. Students largely agree that they have the resources they need to support hybrid learning.
- x. HS data: 396 students participated. Seeing friends and teachers is top benefit 60%, better understood material better 49%. Concerns about hybrid: Tough time finding a routine 49%, grades are worse 34%, hard to learn from home 33%. 47% feel they are progressing and 25% disagree. 58% feel they have resources available to be successful. Comments indicated they like the touchpoints at school.
- xi. Current and continued challenges: increased community spread, monitoring staff for substitutes, vaccination delays, new variant is not currently an issue, student performance as compared to past years: slight increase of students struggling. (K-6 not affected at all). How can we have better support and touchpoints?
- xii. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** Remain in remote instruction following the county directive through February 5. Throughout the pandemic the committee may need "off cycle" meetings to consider instructional plans if conditions change.

Motion to approve recommendations for remote learning through Feb 5, 2021 by Elizabeth Timkovich; seconded by Greg Kilpatrick; motion carries.

7 in favor: (Rick Buckler, Jennifer Johnson, Stephanie Painter, Ridgley Chapman, Amy Carr, Greg Kilpatrick, Elizabeth Timkovich); 2 opposed (Leslie Fogarty & Jared Tilley)

C. Athletics:

Where we are: cross country, swim, women's and men's basketball, cheer, men's soccer, women's and men's lacrosse are all in session. Volleyball got the full season in. We currently have 188 student athletes. Cross country has regionals tomorrow and those who advance will run again on Friday. Swim has 2 more meets before regionals. Basketball has only had two games. They will miss 7 games if we close the teams until February 5. This could impact our ability to go to regionals. Lacrosse just started on Monday and has had 3 practices. They would miss the first part of their season. We are part of the district with Lincoln County and Catawba County schools. CMS is putting all on hold except for volleyball. Some charter schools have suspended all practices for teams not in session, some have shut down all sports, some are holding off until January 29. All exposures in sports are included on the dashboard. Coaches: are they all on board with coaching? Those that want to are, some are doing this in an alternative way. Protocols have been strong. The recommendation is that

those sports in season should be able to carry on; limit fans; suspend off-season workouts.

Motion to approve recommendation for sports teams in season continue with protocols and safety measures in place and suspend off season workouts until February 2 by Amy Carr; seconded by Ridgley Chapman; motion carries.

VI. New Business:

A. Two MS staffing recommendations:

- i. Mrs. Laura Cook 8th grade ELA continuing the same instructional model we currently have in the 8th grade with Mrs. Locke.
- ii. Jennifer Hayes for the guidance counselor position.

Motion to approve recommendations for Middle School staffing by Jennifer Johnson; seconded by Jared Tilley; motion carries.

B. 2021-2022 School Calendar:

- i. This proposed calendar has LNC beginning school on August 11 as a K, 5th and 9th transition day, then everyone on August 12. It closely mirrors our other calendars with a few other changes. School would end on May 27 for students.

Motion to approve 2021-2022 School Calendar by Amy Carr; seconded by Stephanie Painter; motion carries.

Motion to move to closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a1) (a6) at 9:17PM by Amy Carr; seconded by Elizabeth Timkovich; motion approved.