



## Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting

### Open Board Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting

#### General Meeting

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

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Rick Buckler**

#### Approval of Minutes

***Motion to approve the June minutes by Jennifer Johnson; Leslie Fogarty seconds; motion carries.***

#### I. LNC/State Update

- A. The school is continuing to plan for reopening; next week Gov. Cooper will release the approved plan for the school reopening. The Coalition of Charter Schools was able to appeal to the state board of education and ask for consideration of funds because many did not receive any money as a result of the act passed this summer. We were approved for this and will get \$45 per student= \$94,000 to help with the COVID-19 situation. Supplies, thermal scanners, skins for the door handles, new employees, and instructional software.
- B. Senate Bill 818 was ratified June 17. When this comes through, there could be a one-time bonus for charter school teachers in the amount of \$350 per teacher.
- C. The state budget has not been resolved for the past two years. Our retirement cost has come in higher than expected, so this will need to be adjusted on the budget.
- D. Graduation plans had to be changed again because of the extension of Phase II. Originally we were to graduate June 1 at Blumenthal. We postponed it to July 13 at Belk Theater. When Phase II was put in place, we changed to an outdoor venue at Atrium Stadium in Kannapolis. As soon as this was planned, Phase II was extended and a new ceremony needed to be developed. We will be doing a drive-through graduation at LNCS. All along we stayed with July 13 to avoid disrupting family plans. A great plan is in place for Monday's graduation. This also complies with what many parents wanted as an "in person" ceremony.

#### II. Committee Updates

- A. **School-Life Balance:** First transition meeting was held a few weeks ago and they will follow up on the 20th to set goals for the year.
- B. **Leadership:** Nothing at this time.
- C. **Engagement:** Because of the funding and blessing from PTO, the committee has started a website and launched it for LNC families to connect. 164 families have already signed up for this. "Buddy Families" for people new to LNCS: Every brand new family has been paired up. Connections were made at the end of June. Families are connected through school-wide communications and lots of advice has already been shared.
- D. **Campus Planning/Elevate:** There is a lot going on on the main campus. The front office is under construction. This should be wrapped up by the 15th and people will be moving back into their offices. The field and track is well underway. This should be done before the start of school. All permits have been issued.

Elevate: We are tracking at half the money raised has been taken in. We have not had any additional people pull out. No new people added, but no one left. We will send out informative information later this month. It will be a "Did you know?" informative communication which details how the projects will benefit the students. We also have approximately 900K for the Rise Together campaign.

- E. **Global Diversity & Inclusion:** The team has been meeting at least once a month to discuss letters to go out to families and a way to implement a dialogue across the board. Teacher development will continue. The civil unrest centered around the mistreatment of Black Americans is a discussion and there will be professional development in this area. Once school begins we will focus on the calendar as it relates to the school and activities with guest speakers for the school.
- F. Dialogue across differences will be one of the largest goals so they can lay the foundation for this. There will be a student panel of diverse students to talk about their experience at LNC. A website has been created as well which has resources and posts from the committee. Several options for integrating diversity to the whole school continues. The current communications that have been going out are excellent and are unfolding in a great way to display LNC core values, resources, and dialoguing across differences.

### III. New Business

- A. **Staff Recommendations for 2020-2021 School Year:** All recommendations and hiring at LNCS do go through the board. This year we needed to hire 11 new teachers. Five new positions at the elementary school.

***Motion to approve new hires by Jennifer Johnson; seconded by Jared Tilly; motion carries.***

- B. **LNC Safe Reopening Draft Plan Review:** A Reopening Taskforce (16 people) and a parent advisory board have created Plans A, B, and C and the Remote Learning Plan. The projected plan was to release on Tuesday to the families. DATA: Statewide poll with parents and 34% responded Plan A, 38% wanted Plan B, and 29% Plan C. Based on this data, we know we will not be able to please everyone with whatever plan is released.
  - i. Comparison chart (page 8): Looks at differences between all of the plans. There are ways to dig deeper with the links into the plan, but families have many ways to look at this.
  - ii. The beginning of the document has all of the information about the Health and Safety of the school day for all people at the school. It is followed by the social/emotional piece we will be providing to the students. There will be a training, "Emotional Reintegration," to be offered to all teachers to help students and teachers deal with the abrupt transition.
  - iii. Commonly Asked Questions FAQ will go out to the staff on July 10 and they include a virtual Staff Q&A that will occur on July 21.
  - iv. At the beginning of August there will be a virtual Coffee Chat for families to answer questions.
  - v. Will the school provide masks to students or guests who arrive without them? Yes, but families will be encouraged to provide their own. These have already been ordered. Visitors will be extremely limited. The little kids (kindergarten) will be encouraged to wear masks, but they will do some age appropriate social distancing and unmasked times.
  - vi. Bus 50% Capacity: This is for our shuttle bus, but will also apply to the Olympic buses bringing students to the school.

- vii. High schoolers who are parking in the parking lot: When will they be required to put on their masks? Will they congregate in the parking lot? They will need to mask as soon as they get out of their car. Spots will be painted on the ground to monitor their movement. Staff will be out there to move them along.
- viii. Exposure is considered 15 minutes and within 6 feet. Teachers have teacher safe zones within their classrooms to minimize exposure.
- ix. Have teachers been given a survey to see how they feel about the reopening? Teachers will receive a PPE packet upon return to school. Administration has taken teacher safety into consideration and have reached out to teachers about this plan. They are aware of the anxiety the teachers have and are taking all considerations for them and their safety. Teachers are essential workers.
- x. What changed as a result of the feedback from the teachers and parent advisory board? The parent advisory board gave thought early on, so this information was taken into consideration as the plan was developed. Teachers had more critical feedback. Staff Q/A was planned for the 21st, but it is clear they will need this sooner. There will be something out to all staff by tomorrow afternoon.
- xi. What would cause us to move to PLAN C? We have a matrix with guidelines to help us determine if and when this transition might be necessary. This will come out in August to the board.
- xii. Should we put this on the website and make it a living document? This is just a suggestion by Jennifer Johnson. We do have a living FAQ on there now. It is in the Q&A format and it will have links on it to lead to the plan.
- xiii. There will be a Safe Reopening section on the website to keep families updated on communications and resources.
- xiv. Suggestion for next week: One of the things the DPI and Office of Charter Schools have shared: We DO have the ability to go more restrictive. Example: If the governor decides to go with Plan A, we can choose to go Plan B as a charter school to be safe. There are also many new procedures to put in place, opening with Plan A would be very difficult, and possibly not safe. Doing this would help us reopen. Teachers will have added duties including monitoring, sanitizing, etc... emotional and social assistance for kids. Carpool will also be more difficult with the added health screening. Time is a serious concern with this. If we do this, we will explain to all parents why we are doing this and we will detail a plan to reenter the schools.
- xv. Biggest concern is if/when we have our first COVID case at school.
- xvi. Proposal is to go halfway through the quarter before making any changes if we start with Plan B. (4 weeks). We will be able to look at the other schools and see how we are feeling and look at data.
- xvii. If we feel the document is ready, the taskforce would like to share this earlier to get information out to families. If we put this out on Tuesday, it gives the parents 5 days to make the choice if they want to do independent learning. This will help with the scheduling and working out the workload for teachers and administration.
- xviii. Independent Learning: Any type of independent learning has to be temporary and there has to be a reentry point for them to come back in. Because of this, they will have to stay on track with the rest of the class. They will have to take an end of quarter assessment to move on and they will maintain their spot at LNCS. This is not recommended. There has not been a huge asking for this yet. Only one family has emailed regarding this as an option at this time.

***Motion to approve starting with Plan B if the Governor recommends Plan A by Greg Kilpatrick; seconded by Jen Johnson; motion approved.***

- C. **Remote Learning Plan Approval:** This needs to be approved by the board so we have a solid remote instruction plan in place to hold ourselves accountable and keep an eye on all of the students. The state provided several questions to guide the Remote Learning Plan. We will be streamlining instruction and materials for all teachers in a building.

Question #3: This speaks to communication, teacher roles and expectations, teacher workdays, etc... This document only speaks to the elementary school: There is content for middle and high school. There will be information for HS and MS. A video is being put together for staff to discuss the expectations for Schoology, etc... MS: Teachers will provide blended learning so students will hear from their teachers. EC teachers will provide small group sessions. Guidance counselors will provide small group sessions as well. Math and reading specialists will hold small group settings for kids who are struggling. TA's will do this as well. These will be required meetings. HS: Many commonalities between HS and MS. Consistency is important. Formatting in Schoology will be consistent. Screencastomatic, FlipGrid, EdPuzzle, Peardeck, etc... Wednesday will be capitalized on for small group tutoring, etc... There will be set office hours for tutoring. Set time for teacher planning will be allocated as well.

Question #4 Discusses challenges and connectivity. How prevalent are these challenges in the LNC community? We did not see many challenges for our students in this area. The blogger challenges were getting into a schedule and a routine.

How will the teachers be handling the social component of school in a virtual environment? MS had a virtual field day. GooseChase was used and the MS was used as a model. Interactions will be mandatory as well. Wednesdays can also be used for club meetings as well. (virtually) Best practice has been reviewed and will be reviewed with teachers so students are not tied to videos and this should help with student engagement as well. This gives everyone a "breather." Being flexible with due dates/times is also important in emotional/social well-being.

Meeting kids face-to-face at the beginning of the school year is a concern for all teachers and students. We will need to be creative and find unique ways to help this happen if we open in a remote setting.

Based on the feedback from parents at the end of the last school year, where did we stand? If we go into a remote setting, within 2-4 weeks we would reach out to the teachers, families, and students and see how it is going. We made the changes we have made based on the feedback from last year, but to know if it is working, we would need to monitor this, look for trends and make changes and provide support as needed.

This remote learning plan is going to be submitted to the state. They are not approving the plan, they just want to know that one has been made for each district. There has not been guidance to resubmit this. Internally, we will look at this as something to improve and tweak as needed moving forward.

Timing of the release of the whole plan: We will release on the 14th and additional communication when the governor comes out with his announcement. We will say we are going to start with Plan B if the governor selects Plan A. If he selects Plan C, we will go with C. Releasing this on Tuesday, deadline for independent learning will be on the 19th, (this can be flexible if a family has a difficult situation).

***Motion to approve the Remote Learning Plan by Ridgley Chapman; seconded by Amy Carr; motion approved.***

***Motion to adjourn at 9:18PM by Jared Tilley, seconded by Ridgley Chapman; motion approved.***