



**Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting  
Open Board Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2020**

*7:00 PM - Regular Session*

*Conference Call Dial in: (980)365-5199*

*Access Code: #639602153*

**General Meeting**

Attending: Ricky Jones, Sherry Latten, Jennifer Johnson, Jared Tilley, Anna Blackwelder, Ridgley Chapman, Stephanie Painter, Thom McElroy, Rick Buckler, Shannon Stein-Superintendent

**Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Ricky Jones.**

**Approval of Minutes**

- I. State and Department of Public Instructions Update:** Remote E-Learning survey to go out to see what schools are doing. There is an inequity of instruction in NC at this point. They are discussing what they will do because of this discrepancy. E-Learning plans will be going out to DPI shortly as well. PowerSchool system update: Guidance on attendance: Moving forward you will mark school as "in session." More guidance on how grading will be handled will be coming out. There has been a suspension of the state report cards. These are tied to end of year testing.

Tomorrow at 11AM State Board of Education meeting. They met earlier this week to approve a waiver for state testing. They are open to this and we are now waiting on the Federal government to approve it. Grading practices will be a big topic tomorrow. Until now we have thought all grades will count; however, because all districts are not the same, so there is a push to have no grading. The discussion will happen tomorrow. There is a possibility that they will say no grading allowed. 50 million dollar school support package based on the ADM (80%) and 20% directed to impoverished districts. They will also be looking at calendar flexibility to waive the minimum requirement of school days and times.

Federal Level: Waiting for them to approve the waivers. There is a Covid-19 bill 30.75 billion for assisting education. Counties are worried about moving into the next school year. Long term is uncertain at this time.

Questions:

Painter: Will kids have the opportunity for AP testing? Smith: Yes. College Board is planning on still assessing through a different format which is much shorter and the students will be able to take the test at home on an electronic device. This is still being designed. The assessment will cover only Pre-COVID-19 material.

Blackwelder: If they end up saying there are no grades, how will the grades be calculated for quarters 1-3? They have not provided guidance on that yet, but we are still waiting on this information. We are lucky in the fact that our students have had  $\frac{3}{4}$  of their course where

students in 4x4 are completely different.

Johnson: What has the conversation been on the Pass/Fail option? This might be something they are going to discuss tomorrow. Colleges are doing this, but there has not been guidance on this for grade schools yet.

## II. Update E-Learning

### A. Current Progress:

- i. **Craig Smith HS:** Any update we give is as of 7:23 3/26/2020. It is very evident that the five years we have used E-Learning at the HS has really paid off. Everyone was really accepting of the situation. The students have really embraced this style of learning and are appreciative of teachers' efforts. Teachers have done a great job of creative teaching and maintaining contact with kids and keeping the connection going. Asynchronous: Students can do the work now, or later. Synchronist: Interactive at the HS, most have a hybrid approach where they are doing a little of both. This has been appreciated as many people are taking care of kids at home, etc... In every course, every teacher is basing their teaching along the lines of what they are comfortable doing.
- ii. **Cherie Graham MS:** She is encouraging the teachers to try to maintain a type of balance so they give an appropriate balance. Students are still reaching out to guidance counselors and they are working together. Students are reaching out to them and they are connecting with parents. The TAs are also incorporating themselves into the classrooms and are also reaching out to the students and they are maximizing all opportunities. They have had really good attendance at the MS and being accountable. If a child is absent over three days, they will alert Rebecca Shipman and she will reach out to the family and can reach out to the state if there is a health issue or if the family needs any resources. There is a parent on the staff who will present to the staff on ways to present to the students virtually.
- iii. **Sherry Latten:** How do students reach out to counselors? Email and Schoology messages with direct contact. Counselors are pushing out messages on the Class Of updates.
- iv. **Holland ES:** She reached out to team leaders from each grade level (K-4) K: Challenge-Keeping it simple for parents and making sure learning is still fun. Success: Making the best of technology to communicate and interact with students. 1st: Challenge-Finding the balance between overwhelming support for parents and reaching the parents of the students who need extra help. Success- Zoom meetings and expectations are consistent 2nd: Challenge- grading expectations for some students are receiving more parent support than others. Teachers are missing daily interactions with students. Success: Daily work pathways, families are getting into a routine, positive feedback from parents and using SeeSaw. 3rd: Challenge-Helping parents realize the kids are able to do most of the work independently. Success- Students are navigating with confidence and are positive and upbeat in Zoom meetings. 4th: Challenge- Time for planning and working at home with children. Success- Students are working and learning and this is going better than they hoped. Specials: Hard to connect with the kids Success- Students are taking

advantage of the opportunities to work on their projects and they are using Padlet. They are meeting with grade level teams through Zoom

There have been interviews for the upcoming year: Zoom interviews. They have a male who has accepted the position (Justin Wright) Math/Science teacher and the EC position is open. Dawn Gilbert will be moving to 3rd grade. (Julianna Caught) will be the new EC teacher. In K the teacher is an alumna of LNCS and will be in her 3rd year teaching- Corrine Belfield. Tonight they interviewed for 3rd grade teacher, another male, but they have not reached out to him yet. All positions will be filled for next school year. At the next board meeting we will have all of the details.

- iv. **Lon Chan Technology Update:** Nic has taken care of all the repairs at the HS and Ribbons at the MS. There have not been many issues or breakage. There have not been any major problems and nothing is affecting the student learning.
  
- B. **Future Plans (Friday Workday/Student Seminar):** Stein: Administration has done an excellent job keeping in touch with staff. Everyone is adjusting and really putting their best foot forward. They are feeling a bit stressed in finding the time to plan. M-TR the schedule will be the same, but on Fridays, students will sign in to one class for attendance and make sure everyone is OK. This will be a Student Seminar/Teacher Work day. Students can catch up on work, do research, connect for projects, and teachers will be able to plan and collaborate. Many resources have been shared and teachers need time and space to look at the options and this will give them the opportunity to work in these innovative platforms and make plans. This will be announced first thing tomorrow morning.

This will not happen for the elementary school kids. They are already on a different type of schedule. The group meetings will not happen on Fridays. We are trying to be as flexible as we can for these kids. No new assignments will be given on Friday. Friday is a day where they can work on getting things done. This will start April 3, the next week, April 10 is Spring Break, and it will continue after Spring Break.

- C. **School Events Plans (field trips, graduations, etc.):** Sara and Negrete have been diligent with the COVID-19 information and have streamlined a live document with FAQs for communication. All events are listed here and if things have been cancelled or changed, it is listed here and is posted for all parents.

### III. Elevate Update

- A. **Contract Considerations: Fundraising Efforts:** Over the past few months we have been asking for funding. All of this happened before Covid-19. To our benefit, we have not actually signed many contracts yet. This gives us some flexibility. The team has decided not to execute any contracts right now and look at all the risks and uncertainties that are out here right now. What we would like to do is come back to this group next week with more options. The team is looking at many different scenarios and putting together some various options we can bring to the table next week so they have time to really do due diligence in this new situation as far as sequencing and financial options. Note: We

had only one family come back and ask to put a hold on their original commitment. If possible, this information will be shared before the meeting so they can look through it before meeting next week (Wednesday). The difficulty with this situation is that things are changing constantly with fundraising, construction, technology, etc... Some of this will need to be hashed out together at the meeting so we can look at all different angles.

- B. **Elevate:** After COVID-19 is over there are about 500 people we will need to reach out to and we are still very much committed to the project. We will remind folks we are at 1.93 million promised/ 44,000 million in hand. 41% of the population has donated which demonstrates a deep commitment. We are not actively pursuing people right now. We are on hold. Every day Sara gets an email with the money that has been donated. We are still very committed to ELEVATE, but need to be respectful of the situation.
- C. **ByLaw language change:** Based on a webinar Rick and Ricky Jones attended Association of Charter Schools. How we relate and hold meetings given the COVID-19. We need to review telephonics and video meetings. Our bylaws do not mention these, but we are still able to have them. We need to change the language as it relates to virtual meetings and platforms.

***Motion to allow the Board Chair may deem that Board meetings shall be held by telephone conference call or virtual platform when, in the Chair's judgment, circumstances so warrant. In those situations, the Superintendent is directed to continue to give the appropriate notice of and make the arrangements for such meetings in line with North Carolina's Open Meetings laws by Rick Buckler; Stephanie Painter seconds; motion passes.***

- D. **Upcoming meetings:** Next week was supposed to be the Board Retreat and the team decided to move this to a governance session on May 6, but to still go through with a regular board meeting next Thursday. The board meeting for next week will be on April 2 at 7:00 PM to discuss the 2020-2021 calendar, Elevate, etc... After that there will be a meeting on May 6, a condensed retreat and then a regular board meeting after that at 7:30 PM.

***Motion to adjourn at 8:26 PM by Thom McElroy, seconded by Stephanie Painter; motion approved.***