



Lake Norman Charter
November Open Board Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2020
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 6:05 PM by Rick Buckler

Motion to move to a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 143-318.11(a)(1) at 6:05 PM by Leslie Fogarty, seconded by Jennifer Johnson, motion approved.

Motion to move back to open session at 7:10 PM by Amy Carr; seconded by Leslie Fogarty; motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October minutes by Leslie Fogarty; Stephanie Painter seconds; motion carries.

I. School State Update:

- A. Shannon Stein Update: Good News: Melissa Smith has become a published author for the second time. She recently had *Teach Living Poets* published.
The French Class at the high school has pen pals in France. Last week they were able to meet for 1 hour over Zoom. They spoke about school life, friendships, COVID, etc... They spoke in English; our students spoke in French.
- B. Athletic Update: HS Athletics cross country and volleyball started yesterday, swim and dive in a few weeks and cheer and basketball on December 7. There will be many hurdles with this. Students and coaches are excited to get back to athletics. One challenge is multi-sport athletes. Families were notified today. There is overlapping of teams, fields, coaches, etc...
August 13 New sports calendar: 7 seasons to the middle of June. August 25 coaches came in to discuss the calendar and challenges: coaching conflicts, coaches who coach multiple sports, facility issues, and multi-sport athletes. Collectively, all coaches felt for the health and safety of the kids they should continue with what has always happened at the school, finish one sport before starting the next. This is to help balance academics and COVID-related issues. Other schools are allowing the multi-sport athletes so that the kids can have what they always have had. Our school did meet again and discussed this, and made the decision to allow it for this year after all. It is not being encouraged, but will be allowed.
 - i. **MS:** No fall/winter sports for middle school. Our conference is with the private schools and they carried on throughout COVID. We are hopeful that spring sports will happen. The athletic department is looking at alternative in-house intramural sports so they can be engaged if spring sports cannot happen.
 - ii. NCHA/governor will only allow 25 fans in the building for sporting events. We will only allow home fans, but will also be streaming basketball, volleyball, etc.

- C. **HS Program Changes:** Mr. Smith to speak on HS in hybrid. 3 items to be aware of:
- i. Midterms: The HS will not be administering midterms this school year because of the timing of everything. If the HS did do this, it would be December 10-December 22 with midterms only. This way they can have more instruction time and the quarter 1 and 2 grade will be based on student work only
 - ii. Service Learning: Last year we waived this for 19-20. He is proposing that this is waived again for 20-21, but continue to encourage students to volunteer when safe. Class of 20-21 would have to have 20 hours because their first two years were not impacted. The school could offer service hours for students who were behind. Hopefully service learning will be able to be reinstated in the future.
 - iii. Leadership In Action: We would like to place this on hold this year because of the timing and the cohort system. The seniors for this year will still be required to complete their reflections because they would not have to complete anything additional except the reflections. This is a requirement to participate in graduation. Seniors who are behind in their reflections will be spoken to and a plan will be put in place to support them in finishing these on the seminar days and will be administratively driven.
 - iv. The midterms will be announced to the students in the classroom. The Service Learning will be communicated to all HS families in a communication. Leadership in Action will be directly communicated to the students who are impacted.

II. Elevate Project Financial Update:

- A. LNC Investment Policy: Currently, LNC's cash position is that LNC is not making the most of the cash we have and our dollars are not working for us. We want to revisit this for the school and establish something that will work for the school long term. The team has met with several investment companies and found that PNC has everything we are looking for including working with nonprofits and working with other charter schools. They are also willing to consult with LNC about LNC's investment policy. This team would like to recommend that they continue to have conversations with PNC and get more information about options for investing. They have provided several models for investing our excess funds and make the dollars work for us and look at long-term solutions that will work and keep us in compliance with our other investors. Concerns were raised about locking in investments and the potential of not having access to monies if needed. The groups would like to see the risk investment analysis on any proposed ideas and look for hidden fees. LNC will want to be certain we are not harming the Wells Fargo relationship we currently have. From an accounting/auditing side of things there will be some challenges, but Wilson has good relationships with Acadia and Potter & Co who will help with this area. At this time we have not had any peer-to-peer conversations because most charter schools do not have the additional monies to be in this position.

III. Committee Updates:

- A. Campus Planning/Elevate: Campus - Basically the project is done. The press box should be complete before Christmas. The contractor is much better to work with. The field and track look great and are well made. The front driveway looks incredible as well. Matt and Scott did an excellent job of getting everything together, being cost effective, creative, and getting in there and working.
- i. Fund Raising: ELEVATE 5% increase since last month \$783,158.00. People are turning their pledges into donations. Not included in this money are a bunch of checks that have not been added. One was from Wells Fargo and is the largest donation we have

- ever had (over \$20,000). RISE Together is close to the million dollars.
- ii. Recognition wall, the brick walkway, and a loved ones garden are being created. The team is making sure people who have been pledging know about the matching opportunities at Wells Fargo.
- B. Global Diversity/Inclusion: Teacher development - the workshops for DEAT training has been completed. This happens every month and revolves around the monthly calendar. The Diversity training is being moved to an online format. In November the team will be gathering more resources for teaching.
- i. Student Development: Hispanic Heritage month and East Asian culture. Many activities are happening at the HS through social media, zoom meetings and holding tough conversations about subject matters that are relevant to today's society. "Dialog Differences" conversations have brought insightful conversations, non-judgmental conversations and confidence in speaking about beliefs. Next month is Native American Heritage Month. The HS is putting together a video panel in relation to Black History month.
 - ii. The team would like to get parents more involved in dialoging differences.
- C. Reopening Data Review: The committee met throughout this past month. They continue to refer back to their guiding principles when having discussions in the committee. Important points to consider: Must be a partnership. Ask for a rationale if you do not understand something. Reach out to teachers, committee, administration, if you feel something is not being addressed. Decisions will continue to be safe, educationally sound, and student/staff centered. Plan B guidelines from September/October are the same. Health Metrics: Governor has us in Phase 3 until November 13. Here K-5 can be under Plan A; 6-12 can be under Plan B. COVID testing and turnaround time: This has improved. 2.1 days to get results. Our school community reports accessibility to testing is not an issue. Daily New Cases: This is trending up. 215 new cases per day average (data from November 1). This average is up from 100 last month. The trend in positive cases is 6.2%. Last month, this was closer to 5%. Hospitalizations are increasing as well. 128 patients is now up from 87 patients from last month. It is important to look at this in a holistic view. "Good News:" The number of cases are going up, but % positive is less. Hospitalizations are up, but we have good capacity. Testing and availability is improving. Concerns: % positive is above 5%.
- i. LNC Specific Information: COVID Dashboard is located on the website. This is updated weekly. Monday-Sunday and reported on Wednesday. The first slide is active and most current data; the second slide is cumulative cases and exposures. No one has acquired COVID from LNCS. A suggestion was made to note the number of cases/exposures prior to the opening of school. Based on these numbers, it looks like our safety protocols are working. Elementary school and Middle school students complete attestation online each day. This is working well. If we have 90% of the people attesting, we are doing well.
 - ii. Critical Factor Overview: Regional school data is still in the green. Safety protocol is going well at LNCS. Social emotional needs are being met at LNCS. It is different because of the cohorts and interactions are different because of limitations. Kids are not as engaged as they have been in the past. Teachers have additional workload and this is a stressor for them. The Counseling department has been doing a great job reaching out and providing support. They have been trying to find ways to have face-to-face contact with students. There are several virtual ways they are keeping track of students and creating ways to interact with one another. Having the staffing necessary, we are in the yellow. There are changes with the NC Toolkit and who has to be out and when. This could pull teachers and students out until there is a negative COVID test and/or an alternative diagnosis. (example fever with an ear infection) Students in Hybrid and this appears to be working. Students are following the protocols put in place. Teachers are

doing a great job as well. Question: How do we feel about the teacher turnover? It really depends on where we are at the end of the year. How are the teachers doing with the change from Plan C to B? There have been many challenges, fears and concerns. The FAQ was shared with questions from all of the teachers and staff which shows what is on their mind. They are tired, but some are stepping up to be part of the solution.

- iii. Hybrid Instruction: Overall it is going well. Some challenges: There are carpool logistics, attendance on remote days, work completion, covering curriculum, increased teacher absences, dismissal from HS classes, teacher safety, teachers are moving instead of the students at the MS. Positives: kids are doing social distancing and mask wearing, people seem to enjoy the interaction.
- iv. New Information Since Last Board Meeting: New guidance clarifying “close contact.” Brief contact can lead to transmission. High school sports will begin at the HS. Mecklenburg County Community Spread charts have been created by the county. This has red, yellow, orange and helps set some parameters and thresholds. The committee continues to research and look for new information and use them with the guidelines for discussion.
- v. Next Steps: Continue to meet and discuss until we are all on Plan A safely. They will monitor all items in the guidelines and information. A new survey will be sent to all stakeholders before the next meeting (mid-November) after 4 weeks of the hybrid model and 6 weeks for the lower grades. This data will be shared at the December board meeting. No additional recommendations are being made at this time. If there are alarming rates, they can meet prior to December and will if needed.

IV. New Business:

A. 2020-2021 Calendar Update:

LNC would like to make a few changes to the original calendar. There were half days prior to midterm testing. These are taken out.

B. PSAT and ACT: will be days with just certain students coming for testing and the others will be remote.

C. We are recommending the two days before Thanksgiving become remote learning days to reach all students, and the two days before Winter Break the same.

Motion to approve calendar changes mentioned above by Jennifer Johnson; seconded by Amy Carr; motion carries.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:20PM by Greg Kilpatrick, seconded by Ridgley Chapman; motion approved.