



**Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting
September Open Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2021
07:00 PM Eastern Time**

General Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Rick Buckler

Public Comments: Kalie Istre & Carolina Hughes: Addressing the MS dress code and a plan to change it. Determine a statement: to create an environment where students feel safe, respected and comfortable. They show several students in the same clothing to demonstrate different body types and how they are affected by the dress code regulations. Relying on staff judgment creates discrepancies. The old dress code is outdated and needs to be changed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 2021 minutes by Jennifer Johnson; Jared Tilley seconds; motion carries.

I. Support Group Update

A. PTO

1. Will be hosting the first staff appreciation luncheon on October 8. Box lunches with a treat.
2. New vendors and serve 10 commitments from parent volunteers are doing well
3. They are working on a new date for the PTO meeting.
4. After significant hits over the past year, the PTO is replenishing their funds and will be able to fund the professional development grants and teacher appreciation events. They will reevaluate if they can provide the teacher allotment in the spring.
5. They encourage parents to participate in reward benefits such as VIC cards with HT, etc.

B. Athletic Boosters

1. What do the Boosters do? 100% volunteer with 100% benefits going to the sports program. As a group, typically the goal is to maintain \$150,000 at the beginning of each year. The excess is allocated to future programs the school is interested in such as the school capital campaigns both large and small. They have contributed to the buses, lights, weight room, cross nets. On an annual basis, they help with expenses from \$90-105,000. All revenue is from concessions, booster memberships, fundraisers, ticket sales, raffles, golf tournaments, and working the lunches for the PTO. The goal is to remain a NON-pay-to-play school. Other items they purchase are helmets, swim caps, entrance payments, and travel expenses for state events.
2. Homecoming tomorrow. Many events this week to lead up to homecoming. The ES staff wore jerseys today and the HS football players and the marching band went to ES carpool/ morning within the school and visited and encouraged students. This really encouraged the students to want to go to the game on Friday night. Tomorrow morning the cheerleaders will be there.

II. School/State Report

A. 2020-2021 State Testing Performance:

1. We are getting ready to have another vaccination clinic on October 18 for the staff and our community. There will be another one in November.
2. On the LNC webpage, under the COVID 19 section, the Return to School draft plan has been posted for stakeholder review. All questions and public comments can be made to Shannon Stein (sstein@lncharter.org) before the draft is finalized after 30 days. The Return to School plan is a necessary component of the federal ESSR funding plan.
3. One of the LNC safety protocols was to add social-emotional support for teachers, students and parents. We have Dr. Danielle Graham from Novant Health at the school offering services. She is offering a program to cover stress, anxiety, and supporting your students. This additional support through our counselors and partnership with Novant Health is beneficial for the school. Christine Casillas has taken the leadership role in developing our plan for the state and offering many supports for all students, staff and parents.
4. Dr. Kendrick has collaborated and partnered with UNCC: teachers will come to LNC to teach critical mathematics
5. Yesterday LNC found out that our elementary school is the #2 elementary school in the Charlotte region and #9 in all Elementary schools in NC.
6. Today we found out the MS was ranked 8th in NC of all middle schools, putting LNC in the top 1% of all schools in the state.
7. Reengagement events that have occurred: On October 5th there was a 5th/6th-grade sports interest meeting. The turnout was amazing with about 65 families attending. Last night there was a New Family Welcome and Q&A Virtual meeting with Mrs. Stein. Discussions: funding, history, safety, communication, strategic planning. Tomorrow: Community Spirit Night and Homecoming 5-7 food trucks, MC, games, activities.
8. Safety Protocols: Day to day operations and COVID. Officer Bononno is an exceptional resource for our school and is present in all three schools. K-1: Dangers in-home, 3-4 stranger danger, bullying; MS: confrontations, OHANA (Similar to DARE) 7th hygiene/health and cyber bullying; HS: substance abuse and dating violence/sex trafficking, college risks, and prevention.
9. Mr. Funchess: 2019 & 2021 testing scores: Decline across the board in NC. LNC also dropped, but not as much as the state. Math 3 went up. We are still doing better than our counterparts of CMS, Community School of Davidson. LNC stays ahead of other schools meaning our students are performing better than the state average and better than other schools in the area. EOC data did drop, but we continue to be relative to 2019 and better than surrounding areas and the average of NC. These scores are students who did not take standardized tests in 2 years due to COVID. Many of these scores are reflective of challenging situations we had over the year. Teachers are recognizing where students are and are remediating as needed. There are plans to assist and remediate students who may need additional assistance.

III. Finance Report:

- A. State Budget: No state budget has been passed at this time.
- B. COVID Related Funding Updates:
 1. PRC-164 (CARES): We have \$55,000 left. Janitorial and instructional supplies were purchased with this. We were remote when this came out, so much was spent on technology for instruction.
 2. GEER: PRC-169 Partnered with Dr. Graham for mental health
 3. PRC-170 Summer programming at MS and HS
 4. ESSER: \$400,000 Data coordinator to look at what the students really need. We are also investing in instructional software, increased janitorial supplies and HVAC improvements.
 5. Partnered with Nurses and More to get a nurse at the ES
 6. Summer programming

7. ESSER 3: Additional instruction and intervention specialists. This will be approximately half a million dollars.
 8. The PPO Loan was forgiven.
- C. Upcoming: Budget, finance update, semi-annual investor call and financial audit with Potter and Co.

IV. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. **ELEVATE:** We have been intentionally building relationships and working on “touchpoints” so all stakeholders understand their importance. A very detailed email was sent out which provided all sorts of digital information for the school.
 - i) Cash in hand for RISE Together \$1.023 million.
 - ii) ELEVATE donors will be wrapping up in December of this year. ELEVATE has \$1.5 million in pledges; cash in hand is \$1.2 million. The school will be reaching out to families invested in sports and brand new families.
 - iii) Knights Field House is the item left to complete. This will be addressed in ELEVATE 2.0.
2. **Safe Schools:** 90% of the staff is fully vaccinated. At the end of 1st quarter, staff who is not vaccinated will be participating in weekly testing. Towards the end of the year, there may be access to vaccinations for younger students. 1 in 500 children has lost family members or caregivers. LNC is following this trend as well. All metrics over the last 14 days have been trending positively. This includes hospitalizations, COVID cases, and vaccinations. The LNC dashboard shows 1 confirmed COVID case in the ES and HS and 3 in the MS were posted for last week. Our safety protocols have been doing their job.
3. **Masking Recommendations:** Continue with masking indoors at all schools unless actively eating. Same masking policy we have been following.

Motion to approve the continued masking policy above by Nicole Benford; Ridgley Chapman seconds; motion carries.

3. **Global Diversity and Inclusion:** The board participated in the first hour of the Unconscious and Implicit Bias program that the teachers participated in. September: Teachers finished Implicit Bias training. A microaggression training is occurring in the HS which is done during the Knight Time. It is completed in 30-minute sessions. These trainings will be housed in Schoology so that parents can participate in these as well. The administration completed the book study and is continuing to work on strategic areas of need. There are 25 new members in the Diversity club with a total of 50 students. They have committees. In the MS they are continuing with the DET focusing on Hispanic heritage this past month. ES: GDI Awareness with a virtual library. Research and best practices: Training will be coming for teachers in October. October: Continued training throughout schools. Nixon and Co. training in October, partnering with a refugee support group. Our youngest author, in the third grade, Tanusiya Arun, will have her published book at the ES book fair.
4. **THRIVE Committee:** Met to discuss LIA and Day of Service as well as K-5 collegiate information. Next steps: College panel with a Q&A session. LIA: How will we measure the success of this program? Focus on one stage/topic. How do we know the students are getting what they need out of this? We want to make sure every student sees the leader in themselves. This will be started on Tuesday the 19th during Knight Time. Day of Service will be on October 29 Service with a Heart program is who LNC will partner with.

V. New Business:

- A. **Dress Code Policy Revision Update:** On September 28th the committee met to discuss the dress code and its purpose and the process to get to a new policy. Currently, they are in the research

stage. Once there is a plan, they will submit it for comments, and ultimately address the board with new dress code policies.

Motion to move to a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 143-318.11(a)(6) at 8:43PM by Jennifer Johnson; seconded by Leslie Fogarty; motion approved.

Motioned to return to open session by Jennifer Johnson; seconded by Amy Carr at 9:19 PM.

Motioned to adjourn the meeting by Ridgely Chapman; seconded by Nicole Benford at 9:20 PM.