



Lake Norman Charter
October Open Board Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2020
6:00 PM - MS

General Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by Rick Buckler

Motion to move to a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 143-318.11(a)(1) at 6:03 PM by Amy Carr; seconded by Leslie Fogarty; motion approved.

Motion to move back to open session at 7:06 PM by Stephanie Painter; seconded by Amy Carr; motion approved.

Public Comments: Brandon Brown, a high school teacher, presented a letter to share teacher concerns about hybrid.

1. Many staff members believe we should stay at Plan C for health reasons; many teachers have family members who are immunocompromised.
2. Teachers believe we cannot be as effective on Plan B. 80% of the staff said this in the survey. Demands are unrealistic in this plan. Plan C worked and teachers do not feel ineffective in it.
3. Schools who have moved to Plan B have had clusters and had to transition back. The request is that we take a slower approach to opening. This was signed by 43 teachers.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September minutes by Leslie Fogarty; Jared Tilley seconds; motion carries.

I. School State Update:

- A. Disability Rights, a group who advocates for people with disabilities, presented our school with a check for \$10,000 to support staff and students with disabilities. We are able to purchase: plastic dividers, clear masks, a program to support transition work skills for some students with more severe disabilities.
- B. We received an award from Niche.com; they ranked us the 4th high school in NC. Additionally, the Charlotte Observer ranked LNC as the Best Charter HS in the Charlotte area as voted on by their readers.

II. Elevate Project Financial Update:

Jared and Mrs. Wilson update: The purpose is to provide an update on the ELEVATE financial status. A recap for the new board members: Additional funding was approved for the three main projects Phases A, B, C. A Track and MS entrance. B. Middle school office improvements C. Press Box and Field House. In the July meeting we did not approve moving forward with the press box. Funding these projects is through LNC matching and ELEVATE donations. \$2.3 million was approved to fund Plans A, B, and C1. Currently, in terms of Phase A \$1.9 Million was the budget. The project has had an overrun in expenditures due to some unstable soil. We also had to change the sewer line and hit rock which had to be remediated. The turf and track will be \$2.1 million due to these changes which amounts to a \$160,000 deficit. The MS office was on target for the budget. No cost has been incurred for the press box yet, but it is budgeted for \$180,000.

We have started the permitting process for the press box. They are working on some options to close the budget gap. Three options:

Option 1 – Continue with full scope of press box construction LNC would need to approve and fund an additional **\$130k** to complete

- Pro's: Long-term solution; esthetics – complement to field/track
- Con's: Negatively impacts cash fund balance

Option 2 – Move to pre-fab press box option. Estimate in-progress, but expect cost to be much lower than option 1

- Pro's: Keeps us budget neutral (or surplus); meets purpose
- Con's: Inconsistent with Elevate vision; not a long-term solution

Option 3 – Make press box upgrades to meet minimum safety standards only. Cost of **\$3k** required to make the existing press box safe

- Pro's: Project would come in under budget
- Con's: Short-term solution; lack of esthetics

The committee would like to move forward with Option 1 and would need approval for \$150,000, which would also cover any unexpected issues. We continue to see momentum with the donations with ELEVATE and this is a sustainable long term solution. (50 years with upkeep with the brick and mortar unit; 15-20 years with modular unit). They do not anticipate any other change orders. There should be no other risks other than labor or materials, but we will lock in the price with the contractors. We have 30 days for the current bid, which we got a week ago.

We are tracking ELEVATE donations, and we are about 45% into the campaign; we are about 50% there. We are tracking a little better than the RISE campaign did. COVID does not seem to have a negative impact on the campaign.

2½-3 month time frame for the project. A plan has been considered for weather, and for the physical activity time for the MS kids. There is also a plan in place for a temporary press box if needed for sports.

Some funds could also come from Wells Fargo employee parents. The Community Care Grant at Wells Fargo allows employees to double their pledge. We have reached out to these parents. There are other companies that offer this as well. We are also working on RISE together campaign incentives. There will be a permanent recognition wall display at the ES for parents who have pledged at a certain level.

Motion to approve \$150,000 additional funds for the press box project by Greg Kilpatrick; seconded by Jennifer Johnson; motion carries.

III. Committee Updates:

- A. Campus Planning/Elevate: The field and track are looking great and the project is wrapping up. What have we achieved: Field turf and track asphalt are complete. The asphalt on the driveway is complete. Basketball hoops and picnic tables are ready to go. The sewer relocation will happen on Monday. The rubber will be placed on the track Monday. The parking lot painting will be finished Monday. The fencing has been started and will be finished after the rubber on the track. The sand filter is still in the works and will be

complete soon.

The cash in hand from ELEVATE is 749,023. RISE Together is continuing to grow as well=\$908,735.

- B. Global Diversity/Inclusion: At the HS the students had a student led Zoom on the topic of Civil Rights in 2020 America. This was student led and moderated by a counselor and two history teachers. There were guidelines to sign up. There were about 20 kids on Zoom and had a very productive conversation on racial injustice and other difficult topics. They are working on “dialoguing across differences” and working on an effective plan to implement this with COVID happening. Diversity and Inclusion is very important and they will continue to find ways to navigate this in our current situation.

IV. New Business:

- A. School Reopening Plan Review: The committee met again to review and keep a pulse on how they are working towards their guiding principles. (Health/safety of LNC Committee, Quality Education Experience; Greater community behavior; Objective data informed process; Seek and include feedback alongside facts; remain humble; set aside personal biases.) Decisions are: safe, educationally sound, and take into account the safety of teachers and students. The recommendation last month was: Hybrid Model starting on October 12 for K-6, 9, and October 26 for Grades 7-8 and 10-12. The daily schedule will be one hour less to allow for teachers to touch base with distance learners. There were 11% of students who will be distance learning this quarter. Wednesday will continue to be the seminar day. This has been difficult because the stakeholders have competing interests, but the team has been considering everybody’s opinion.

Health driving factors: Governor’s recommendation is now in Phase 3 and added recommendation for Plan A for elementary students. Daily new cases: since our last board meeting these numbers have risen slightly. As of September 27 100-105 cases daily; last month this was in the mid-80s. There are 5.7% positive cases currently. Last month there were 5.8%. The number of regional hospitalizations has declined. The turnaround time on testing is still not ideal. There have been no material adverse changes since last month. One consideration is that Mecklenburg County is still above the 5% rate. Regional schools around us remain stable. There was one private school with an outbreak. In our surrounding area they continue to maintain safe procedures and no outbreaks. We meet and exceed the minimum standards for safety, cleaning, contact tracing. Social-emotional needs: We recognize not all students are having these needs met. Staffing is a concern, but we have added 15 additional substitutes. There is still work to do in this area. The LNC staff’ students are in pods and have continued to comply and have had no outbreaks.

Work Done Prior to Reopening: Communication with parents and staff. Logistics planning for carpool, planning, lunch, planning prep times for teachers (especially at the HS), staff training, collaboration and support. There have been many training sessions the staff have been working through and this has been staff driven. There has been cohort planning. Continuing to make sure we are meeting all of the protocols. We are updating the FAQ as well.

New information to consider since the last meeting: Cooper, the governor, said K-5 can go to Plan A starting October 5. We recognize that Mecklenburg County is higher than the rest of the state and he is making decisions for NC. We will not move to Plan A yet. There was also a change in guidance in how we treat people who are exposed and have to be quarantined.

All parents, and other children in the household must be quarantined. One more change is the addition of new symptoms: runny nose is one of them.

We also need to be aware of the social emotional needs of the children. This is the concern: we recognize that from a social emotional perspective that they need to be in school, some will be afraid to be here, some teachers are afraid, students feed off of the feelings of teachers. All need to be aware.

Next Steps: The committee will continue to meet. The committee will not be making any changes at this time.

The plan that was approved last month still stands. As they continue to review the guidelines, if they feel there are changes, they will bring that to the board to make any additional decisions.

Motion to move to a closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 143-318.11(a)(6) at 8:57 PM by Amy Carr; seconded by Leslie Fogarty; motion carried.

Motion to move back to open session at 9:36 PM by Stephanie Painter; seconded by Greg Kilpatrick; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Jen Johnson at 9:36 PM ; seconded by Amy Carr; motion carried.