



Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting Minutes

September Open Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2023

7:00 PM Eastern Time

General Meeting

Attending: Shannon Stein-Superintendent, Gray Morris, Elizabeth Timkovich, Craig Randall, Nicole Benford, Amy Carr, Jared Tilley, Greg Kilpatrick, Elizabeth Timkovich

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Amy Carr

Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous consent vote (subject to typographical corrections to be added in the materials for the next board meeting).

I. Support Group Update

- A. PTO - \$6000 donated to the Staff Professional Development Committee to support training for teachers. Grants that were approved this summer were distributed, totaling \$43,000. The Spirit Wear store opened, and there is an online portal as well. The PTO will have a tent at the tailgate tomorrow. The fall PTO meeting will be on 9/26/2023 at 6 PM. The next staff lunch will be on Friday, September 29, 2023.
- B. Athletics - Craig Smith: All sports teams are up and running. The heat has been a challenge while keeping the health and safety of the students in mind. Several practices were canceled due to the heat. Teams are able to compete in games even when they cannot practice. There are mandated water breaks throughout the games. Last Friday night was the unveiling of the game day enhancements (new Field House) here at LNC, and it went very well. The Pine Lake Prep football game will be tomorrow night (9/8), and it will be an even bigger event. The Golf Outing will be on October 9, 2023 at NorthStone. There are still sponsorship opportunities available for that.

II. State/School Report

- A. Thank you to the staff and administration for a fantastic start of the year and the back-to-school nights at all three schools.
- B. The incoming kindergarten class is a very diverse group. A quarter of the students who came in have English as a second language. Ms. Johnson and our ESL department will make sure those students have the support they need to be successful at LNC.
- C. LNC is in the process of planning the new elementary school. LNC works closely with and partners with the Huntersville Parks and Recreation Department. They are interested in partnering with LNC for the new elementary school, and details are being discussed now.
- D. The HVAC system failed at the elementary school last winter due to a design error. This cost a little over a quarter million dollars to repair. LNC has filed a suit against the design building firm.
- E. Christine Casillas worked with three other charter schools (Community School of Davidson, Pine Lake Prep and Mountain Island Charter) and planned the College Fair.

They have 23 different colleges visiting the school this evening for a College Fair.

- F. Coalition of Charter Schools: Several bills are delayed because schools are still waiting on a budget. More updates will come once we have more details. Senate Bill 49 (Parent Bill of Rights) was passed. This is meant to engage parents on several levels. Mrs. Stein met with all teacher teams and discussed this bill and the components that affect the teachers and compliance. LNC already had procedures in place, but needed to create some policies to be compliant.
1. There is a list in the law of the relevant Parents' Rights. LNC will create a website to list these as well.
 2. As a school, teachers are not allowed to use names or pronouns different from what was used to register the student. For students who want to go by different names other than their legal name, their parents must complete a form indicating they are providing explicit permission for the school to call the child by a different, preferred name. The names cannot change unless the parent provides permission. Once the forms are back from the families, the principals will make an announcement to students to help them understand the name changes. Additionally, when LNC knows of certain students who will have a difficult time with this, counseling will be available to them.
 3. Protected Surveys: If a survey asks certain questions regarding political interests, mental health, sexual behaviors and attitudes, critical responses about family members, and religion, the school would need parental permission.
 4. LNC must make sure parents have access to materials being used in the school. LNC uses Schoology, and teachers post all of their materials on Schoology so that parents can preview the assignments. Parents must be able to "review and object." For example: parents can opt their students out of a book. There will be an appeals process.
 5. In order to comply with the bill, LNC needs three new policies and one edit to an existing policy. The new policies relate to:
 - (1) Health Education
 - (2) Library Materials
 - (3) Parental Involvement

III. Old Business

A. IDE&A

1. Annual Goal Review: Nicole Benford: (1) Work with HS Diversity Counsel and student organizations to develop activities to support peer belonging. (2) Explore what belonging means and appreciate differences. (3) Continue to engage families.
2. The Committee has not yet held its first meeting for this school year, but will next week.
3. On September. 5, 2023, Chris Singleton came to speak to students and parents.

B. THRIVE

1. Annual Goal Review: Amy Carr: (1) Utilize tools and surveys to personalize the student experiences and exposure based on interest (leadership/service, club experiences, speaker series). Naviance will be utilized for much of this. (2) Examine stakeholder recognition at the different levels to create and maintain a culture that reflects the values that we expose. Examples of this include: the Knight of Honor, expanding this honor to teachers and other faculty members, The Knight Shield will begin at the middle school to recognize more students.
2. The committee members will have their first meeting of the 2023-2024 school year later this month.

IV. New Business

A. Policy Committee

1. **Comprehensive Health Education:** LNC will follow the Healthy Living Curriculum for the State. There is a listing of what LNC will teach and what parents can opt out of. Materials will be available to parents.

Motion to approve the comprehensive health education policy by Elizabeth Timkovich; Jared Tilley seconds; policy passes.

2. **Instruction & Media Center Materials selection:** This covers what counts as a textbook and how media center materials are selected. Parents have a right to review the materials. Guidelines have been established for what parents may do if they have objections or want to limit exposure. Parents may input their desires into the Destiny system if they do not want their child to be exposed to a particular type of book. There is a section in the bill about limiting materials with sexual material. Parents may still donate books. There will be a procedure for this.

Motion to approve the instruction & media center materials selection policy by Elizabeth Timkovich; Nicole Benford seconds; policy passes.

3. **Parental Involvement:** Parents have the right and are encouraged to have a say in and active involvement in their student's education. Parents have many ways to plug in and become a part of the school community. There is a section for requesting information and how to object if they want to.

Motion to approve the parental involvement policy by Elizabeth Timkovich; Nicole Benford seconds; policy passes.

4. **LNC Grievance Update:** The proposed change to existing policy gives the ability to parents to appeal to the building principal, then the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

Motion to approve the changes to the LNC Grievance policy by Nicole Benford; Gray Morris seconds; policy passes.

The general meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.