



Lake Norman Charter Open Board Meeting Minutes

**September Meeting Minutes**

*September 10, 2020*

***When: Sep 10, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)***

***Topic: September Board Meeting***

***[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aRLAN3ASXSBCWIESOtp3A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aRLAN3ASXSBCWIESOtp3A)***

General Meeting

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

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Rick Buckler**

**Approval of Minutes**

***Motion to approve the August minutes by Amy Carr; Leslie Fogarty seconds; motion carries.***

**I. School State Update:**

- A. Kicking off the school year was exciting. She is commending the teachers for their thoughtfulness and making connections with the kids. Parents and students have relayed this. Some have created "Lunch Bunch" for kids to connect.
- B. There was a back to school night. ES: Zoom; HS/MS: these were done through videos posted on Schoology. These went really well.
- C. Our ESL teacher shared that LNC currently services 180 ESL students (English as a second language) and there are 31 different languages at LNCS. Ms. Johnson is currently working with 16 of these students who need accommodations and she is monitoring 20 and is assessing 15 new K students. Predominant languages are Indian and Spanish.
- D. Shout out to the counseling department: They have done staff surveys to check on students and teachers. They are looking to bring support on campus for staff. Parents were also surveyed to see where the needs are in this virtual learning situation. They are putting together some videos and will be sending them out next week. Establishing routines, study habits, time management, etc. Student Health Survey will be sent out on September 15. A parent support group is being formed for parents and college needs.

**II. Quarterly Budget Amendment:**

- A. On behalf of the finance committee: first quarter budget amendment. Last week 1105 House Bill, Corona Bill 3.0: schools that did not get the funds last year will get money for COVID related expenditures. We will apply for this and explain what we will spend the money on. This revenue will not be on this amendment, but you will see it in the second quarter. We have received funding for summer learning, health support, non-digital resources, student computers and devices, personal computers and devices, home and community WiFi, cyber security, EC. The school has spent \$30,000 in COVID supplies including materials to facilitate distance learning and health-related materials. The amendment: Increase of \$621,000 state revenue. Increase in expenditures: There is an adjustment to expenditures for student parking, Knight's Kids, and shuttle bus. \$350 stipend will go to teachers, benefit adjustments.

***Motion to approve first quarter budget amendment Jared Tilley; seconded by Greg Kilpatrick; motion carries.***

**III. Committee Updates:**

- A. **Campus Planning/Elevate:** Things are moving along. Obstacles in the past week or so: sewer relocation, needed remediated soil, Sprint Turf, and some of the onsite management have been difficult. The turf will be complete by Monday. Sewer and pond work will be done in the next few weeks, the track is paved. The southern half of the field was very bad soil. This is the area where the soil needed to be remediated. We saved about \$50,000 by using some free soil from another place and we were able to put the “unusable” dirt at the ES school. After these changes, we found additional bad soil in the west area. This was remediated as well in a timely fashion. The utility contractor handling the sewer and pond helped with changing the pipes so we could continue construction without delay. There was a \$4,000 increase, but this was the benefit of the timeliness. The projected overage for the project is \$200,000. We will be saving money with our water after this is complete. We will be saving money and will get a credit of 80-90%. Update in Elevate Funds in hand \$718,999.
- B. **Global Diversity/Inclusion:** Excited that all of the new teachers have gone through the initial training via Zoom and they are now starting to engage in a facilitators training.

**IV. New Business:**

- A. **Staff Recommendation:** Dr. Graham, Mrs. O’Neal to replace Mrs. Hammond on the 5th-grade team.

***Motion to approve the staff recommendation by Jennifer Johnson seconded by Ridgley Chapman; motion carries.***

**V. Reopening Plan/Decision:**

- A. **Reopening Committee:** Ideas guiding the process: collective health and safety of LNC, preserve the quality of education experience and conduct themselves as part of the greater community using a data-based process, seek and include feedback, be humble and agile, and not afraid to make changes, and put aside personal preferences. They have examined research, monitored local school performance based on plan selection, surveyed stakeholders, reached out to other schools, considered other factors and educational options, and recognized the process will be fluid. They considered the framework including: health factors, other critical factors, additional factors. Health factors-Mecklenburg numbers. Other critical factors: safety protocols, social-emotional needs of students, staffing, regional school data, what we learned from LNC staff children child care pods. Additional: family survey, staff survey, plan understanding, what are the risks.
- B. **Health:** Local data is most relevant, trends since the last decision, data for all age groups, and limitations. They did speak to the Mecklenburg County Health Department and CDC. They looked at data from 2 major hospital systems and 2 major pharmacies. The Governor did switch us to Phase 2.5. This increased mass gatherings to 25 indoors and outdoors to 50 people, playgrounds can be used, schools can operate under B or C. The trend in positive cases: Out of all tests conducted, how many people were positive? Mecklenburg County in July this was 10%; as of 9/7 Mecklenburg County has been trending down and is now 6%. Daily new cases: in July this was in the low 300s; this number is now at 90 new cases. The number of hospitalizations: In July this was 200 per day; now it is 140 per day. Accessibility and turn around time for COVID testing 3-5 business days. While this is improving, this is still not ideal. Although many of these numbers are moving in the right direction, the concern is that we are still not under 5% and the potential increased quarantine time because of the lag in testing.

- C. Other Critical Factors: Regional School Data: overall the other schools in hybrid model are being successful in balancing health and educational needs of students. Safety protocol: LNC has appropriate and enhanced safety procedures in place. Social Emotional Needs: Interaction has been greatly reduced, counseling staff have developed plans for support for students and these needs. 50% of parents were concerned with these needs. Staffing: Currently all are staffed, but there is a 13% decrease in the substitute pool. Recruitment has started LNC Staff Children/childcare pods: No exposures at this point and there has been good compliance with new expectations.
- D. Additional Factors: Top concerns from the 60% of the families who responded: 58.8% concerned with social-emotional, 54% worried about learning in Plan C, 52.8% the health and safety of their child. 19% will pursue independent learning if we go back. Staff: 28% indicated a high-risk condition and 48% have a family member who is high risk. Top three concerns were physical and health safety, moving in/out of different plans, and physical health/safety of students. Overall: Half feel students can learn in Plan B and half in C. 27% of staff feel confident in Plan B while 44% have concerns. The HS has much more concerns about Plan B being successful.
- E. New things to be aware of: Potential for quarantine and the demand that will cause for the staff and families. What do we need to have in place for this group? Remote challenges and PD to strengthen Plan B. Teachers have been successfully implementing Plan C and we will need adequate time to plan for a new plan. There will be an increased number in independent learning. This causes us to have to “flush out” things in Plan B to account for this group of students. We need to make sure they can pace with their peers and are supported. Updated numbers of teachers/subs, and recognizing schools that have opened and then shut down. We hope to reduce the risk of reverting back to Plan C.
- F. The committee's recommendation is to transition to a Hybrid Model, Plan B. October 12 grades K-6, 9; October 26 Grades 7-8, 10-12. The new daily schedule will include 1 hour of office hours each day to allow for connection with independent learners and students not on campus. The school day would end at 2 instead of 3. There will be a Plan B refinement and a video provided for this new transition. They will purchase additional supplies if needed.
- G. Next Steps: Committee will continue to touch base and look at relevant data. More information will be provided about instructional planning. They will continue to be flexible. October 1st will be the next Board meeting with an update with an instructional plan. The committee is trying to look out for the best interest of the entire LNC community. Teachers need the gift of time to successfully implement the new plan.

**Discussion:** Was there thought given to the movement of the students? Yes, the Wednesday seminars have provided us a chance to see how this will work and using this slow transition will allow us to see how it will work. 20% of the parents may move to independent learning. Is there a rubric or some sense of what that will look like for these kids? How will we prepare the teachers for this transition since so many were opposed to it? We will need to talk to the staff about how this may work. At this point we have a better understanding of how our resources can work. We will have to discuss how to do this for the independent learners. We also recognize the anxiety with Plan B and we need to allow the time for teachers to process this and how it will work for them. Teachers need time to digest this new plan so they can be models for the students who arrive.

Mock Plan B questions: This will be done remotely. Should we do this in person? No, that would be starting in B, this is a way to see how the logistics will work. Has transportation been taken into account? Not really. The timing will provide a way for them to work out carpools, etc. Will there be expectations for the asynchronous days? How will teachers do this? Will there be a standard for this? There are different models for asynchronous learning. We are looking into this further. This may vary based on the class being taught, student age, ability, etc.

***Motion to approve reopening plan for the measured transition to Hybrid Plan B model by Elizabeth Timkovich; seconded by Leslie Fogarty; motion carries. Stephanie Painter did not agree.***

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

***Jen Johnson motioned to return to open session; Elizabeth Fogarty seconded.***

***Stephanie Painter motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ridgley Chapman seconded at 9:45pm.***