

MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Present	Brooke Archenhold (remote)
	Berra Byrd
	Chasity Gonzalez
	Cathy Griffith (remote)
	Daniel Lumm
	Brian McKay
	Lienne Medford
	Brian Morrison
	Corey Shick
	Kyle Snipes
	Rob Venable
	Stacey Wilson
	David Wooten
Absent	Andrea Hyman
	Laura Raby

MEETING NOTES

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

MOTION: APPROVE AGENDA WITH REVISIONS

- David Wooten indicated that a new club, the Langston Literary Society, had been proposed for the Board's consideration and requested that this proposal be added to the meeting agenda.
 - Motion by Corey Shick to approve the agenda with the addition of "Langston Literary Society" under "New Business"
 - Seconded by Stacey Wilson
 - Approved

MOTION: APPROVE AUGUST 2023 MEETING MINUTES

- Motion by Corey Shick
- Seconded by Kyle Snipes
- Approved

LANGSTON FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS

- Math – April Burton, David Case, Lawan Neely, Zach Nicks
 - April Burton was in attendance. Mrs. Burton shared remarks on behalf of the Math Department regarding how teachers present math content in preparation for SC READY assessments.
- Leadership – Bev Cannon, Geoff Hill

- Bev Cannon and Geoff Hill were in attendance. Ms. Cannon and Mr. Hill commented on the class mottoes for each grade level as well as the subject matter, curricular materials, and activities associated with each grade. It was noted that community service is taught and students' community service hours are checked in leadership classes.
- Physical Education – Jason Moore, Ian McKenzie
 - Jason Moore and Ian McKenzie were in attendance. Mr. Moore and Mr. McKenzie shared information about how, in accordance with state standards, the faculty introduce students to various sports, administer fitness tests, and prompt students to submit logs documenting monthly physical activity. Sex education and health / nutrition information is also presented to students during their PE class time.

SINGLE GENDER MODEL PRESENTATION

- Dr. Aaron Temples presented information regarding single-gender education and the STEM gap among female students.
- Dr. Rob Venable presented information about single-gender pedagogy, what it looks like at Langston Charter Middle School (LCMS), and how it may affect educational content and methods.
- Brian McKay asked whether more information about single gender pedagogy could be shared with prospective students and their parents. Mr. McKay also asked whether a short video could be created regarding the subject or the information could be presented in some other manner. David Wooten indicated that he and LCMS staff would explore that possibility further.

REPORTS

- David Wooten, Principal's report
 - Mr. Wooten indicated the school hosted an Open House event since the previous board meeting, then facilitated a meeting with parents of 8th graders following the event.
 - Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing was administered in August. LCMS strives to have 100% of students complete the test and the state requires that 80% complete it. Only two LCMS students were unable to complete the test due to being homebound.
 - Photos have been taken for this school year's yearbook.
 - The first quarter of the academic year will end on October 11th.
 - Several clubs have been launched within the last month. A local attorney proposed to facilitate a speech and debate team at LCMS. The chess and LEGO robotics clubs may also re-launch. The art club and entrepreneurial club both met recently. The Langston Literary Society, which is a new club being proposed, wants to meet once each week to discuss a selected book throughout the semester. Some have expressed interest in a baking or cooking club, but no formal request has been presented.
 - In October 2023, LCMS will host informational meetings for prospective students and their parents on October 5, 17, and 21.
 - The deadline for new student applications to LCMS is November 1. Parents of current students also need to submit an application for additional children they are hoping to enroll.
 - One current LCMS student is from Ukraine. Arrangements were made for a tutor to work with the student on Fridays to review lessons and address any gaps in the student's understanding.
- Lienne Medford, Academic Affairs
 - No report
- Daniel Lumm, Governance
 - No report
- Kyle Snipes, Facilities

- Mr. Wooten provided several facilities-related updates:
 - Installation of LED lights in LCMS facilities, which was funded by the LCMS Foundation, was completed under budget.
 - The school's HVAC system was somewhat strained during recent hot weather. Repairs were made to one HVAC unit to remedy a problem. Additional repairs may be necessary to two other units at a later date, although the cost of those repairs will be covered under the school's HVAC maintenance contract.
 - Mr. Wooten shared information about several minor enhancements that could be made to the school's fire alarm system, although no action has been taken.
 - The school obtained a quote from a vendor on flushing the property's underground storm drain system, as heavy rains have sometimes caused issues.
 - Ms. Gonzalez asked when LCMS last solicited bids for procurement of its HVAC maintenance contract. In subsequent discussion, Ms. Gonzalez suggested the school and/or LCMS Foundation consider benchmarking every 3 years. Mr. Snipes invited board members to share information regarding any HVAC contractors that should be considered so he could contact them.
- Andrea Hyman, Treasurer
 - A video previously recorded by Mrs. Hyman was played for board members, which included a review of the school's YTD revenue and expenses. In the video, Mrs. Hyman noted that some line items under expenses appeared to have been unbudgeted.
 - Mr. Shick stated that line items that appear to have been unbudgeted are expenses that were previously under different line items, but are now being listed separately.
 - Mr. Wooten suggested that if there is an expense that appears to be unbudgeted or unaccounted for, then a note could be added to the budget document(s) to specify what the expense was for.
- Brian McKay, Chairman
 - Mr. McKay shared that at Greenville Tech Charter High School, parents of students furnish snacks and drinks for board meetings in exchange for service hours. Mr. Wooten indicated he would investigate that idea further.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Langston Literary Society
 - Mr. Wooten shared information regarding the proposed book club. The goal of the club is to read and enjoy books. The first title proposed is *Keeper of the Lost Cities*, and meetings to discuss the book would be weekly from October – December 2023.
 - The board discussed whether school administration would have oversight regarding titles selected for consideration by the group. Board members recommended that the club consider incorporating a disclaimer statement regarding titles that are selected and that school administration should be notified about titles that are to be discussed.
 - In subsequent email communication following the board meeting, Mr. Wooten, after conferring with the LCMS parent who submitted the Langston Literary Society proposal, recommended approval of the club, with the inclusion of the following information in the student sign-up / parent permission form: "The goal of the Langston Literary Society is to read fun and innocuous books. We will use Common Sense Media as a guide and will only consider books recommended for 11+."

- Parents will be given a minimum of two weeks' notice when a new book is selected so that they have an opportunity to review it for content. Students should discuss with their families what, if any, books their families would deem inappropriate. Any concerns about the book selection can be brought to the club coordinator for further review before the selection is finalized. We aim to create a positive community around literature for Langston students.”
- Andrea Hyman made a motion via email that the board approve the establishment of the Langston Literary Club in the manner recommended by David Wooten.
 - Seconded by Lienne Medford
 - In response to Chairman McKay's call for a vote via email, eight board members responded in favor of the motion, five abstained / did not respond, and the motion carried.
- LCMS Authorizer Decision
 - Mr. McKay indicated that the board will be asked to consider two action items: one regarding whether to leave Greenville County Schools, and one involving selection of a new authorizer.
 - Moving LCMS Charter From Greenville County Schools to State-Level Authorizer
 - Mr. Wooten indicated that the recommendation from school administration is that LCMS move its charter from Greenville County Schools to a state-level authorizer.
 - Kyle Snipes made a motion that LCMS move its charter from Greenville County Schools to a state-level authorizer.
 - Seconded by Stacey Wilson
 - Mr. McKay indicated that he had spoken with two board members who were not in attendance at the meeting, and that both were in favor of moving its charter from Greenville County Schools to a state-level authorizer.
 - In response to a roll call vote, ten board members voted in favor of the motion, one opposed, and the motion carried.
 - In subsequent email communication following the board meeting, both board members who were absent from the meeting indicated they were in favor of the motion for LCMS to move its charter from Greenville County Schools to a state-level authorizer.
 - Selection of New State-Level Authorizer
 - Mr. Wooten indicated that the recommendation from school administration is that LCMS move its charter to the Erskine Charter District.
 - Corey Shick made a motion that LCMS move its charter to the Erskine Charter District.
 - Seconded by Kyle Snipes
 - In response to questions from various board members, Mr. Wooten shared the following information:
 - Erskine Charter District has fewer schools than the South Carolina Public Charter School District, but more students enrolled.
 - Erskine Charter District emphasized customer service and relationship building in their communication with LCMS administration, which partially informed the administration's recommendation.

- The school has not received a documented response from Erskine regarding the possibility of having someone associated with LCMS on the Erskine Charter District board or the negotiation of fees.
 - Regarding next steps, LCMS administration will provide written notification to Greenville County Schools that the school is moving its charter to another authorizer. Then, pending board approval of the motion under consideration, the school would submit its application to Erskine Charter District in October to allow time for subsequent processes.
 - LCMS administration feel that while both Erskine Charter District and the South Carolina Public Charter School District are high-quality institutions that provide support to charter schools, Erskine would be the better choice for the school.
- In response to a roll call vote, ten board members voted in favor of the motion, one abstained, and the motion carried.
 - In subsequent email communication following the board meeting, both board members who were absent from the meeting indicated they were in favor of the motion for LCMS to move its charter to the Erskine Charter District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

MOTION: ADJOURN MEETING

- Motion by Kyle Snipes
- Seconded by Chasity Gonzalez
- Approved, and meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm