

## MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

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

# MEETING NOTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm.

## MOTION: APPROVE AGENDA WITH REVISIONS

- Brian McKay proposed that the Board consider addition of an item to the meeting agenda regarding funding for a Langston Charter Middle School (“LCMS”) staff Christmas party and gifts for the employees.
  - Brooke Archenhold made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “Christmas Discussion” under “New Business”.
  - The motion was seconded by Kyle Snipes.
  - All were in favor, and the agenda was approved with the addition.

## MOTION: APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES

- Brooke Archenhold made a motion to approve the September 2023 board meeting minutes as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Daniel Lumm.
- All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

## LANGSTON FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS

- English – John English, Alissa Fennell, Rebecca Peterson, Ashleigh Skelton
  - All English Department faculty were in attendance and shared remarks regarding changes to the South Carolina state standards for English, which would take effect in the 2024-25 school year.

Faculty commented that English grammar and cursive writing were being reintroduced to the standards, and that the new standards would be more rigorous than the previous ones.

- Special Education – Judy Perecko
  - Judy Perecko was in attendance, and indicated she was responsible for special education for all affected students at LCMS.

## REPORTS

- David Wooten, Principal's report
  - Mr. Wooten indicated that two LCMS teachers – one from the Science Department and one from the Math Department – were currently on extended leave. Substitute teachers as well as other LCMS faculty members have been retained to provide instruction and grading in the affected classes.
  - The latest South Carolina school report cards have been released, with LCMS receiving a rating of Excellent. Mr. Wooten distributed copies of the LCMS testing report card to board members. According to the testing report card, 90% of LCMS students are meeting or exceeding expectations for ELA, and 77% of students are meeting or exceeding expectations for math. Mr. Wooten acknowledged that various metrics related to testing, student progression, and the school environment are combined to determine the total score for the school.
  - A group of approximate 70 LCMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and over 30 adults will travel to Washington, D.C. for a field trip.
  - The application process for the annual LCMS school lottery has begun. All applications are due by November 1st. School tours are being offered at designated times throughout the month, and several informational meetings will be hosted for parents of prospective students. At the time of the board meeting, over 300 applications had already been received since October 1st. There will be approximately 140 spots in 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year for enrollment.
  - Mr. Wooten shared that school clubs were off to a good start. LCMS students in the Speech and Debate Club participated in a competition recently and represented the school well, with several students placing in the competition or receiving recognition.
  - Halloween Bash, an event for students managed almost entirely by parent volunteers, is scheduled for October 20th.
  - The school's annual audit is in process, and Mr. Wooten indicated he would share the final audit report with the Board when it is complete.
- Lienne Medford, Academic Affairs
  - No report
- Daniel Lumm, Governance
  - No report
- Kyle Snipes, Facilities
  - The school is considering instituting a calendar for planning building maintenance.
  - Mr. Snipes will meet with LCMS administration to discuss facilities-related projects that should be prioritized in the future.
  - The school is seeking a handyman to make various repairs around the school, as needed.
- Andrea Hyman, Treasurer
  - Mrs. Hyman reviewed LCMS Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss handouts that were distributed to Board members at the meeting.
  - Mrs. Hyman noted that copying expenses had increased. Mr. Wooten noted that the Math Department was more dependent on packets of curricular materials during this school year and that Mr. Michael Shade had developed his own curriculum to accord with South Carolina science

standards. Mr. Wooten acknowledged that both of these factors could be contributing to higher copying expenses, but that he would need to investigate the matter further to determine whether the expenses were the cost of doing business or if there were opportunities to curb some of the copying costs.

- Landscaping expenses are currently somewhat high, but Mr. Wooten noted that mulching, field dressing, and other annual landscaping expenses are somewhat frontloaded in the fiscal year. Similarly, Mr. Wooten noted that the school incurs more expenses for membership dues earlier in the fiscal year.
- The Board discussed the principal's discretionary fund, which is part of the LCMS annual budget and has historically been used to provide employee assistance in response to certain life events. Mrs. Hyman inquired whether students' parents could contribute resources for the purpose of supporting employees in qualifying situations in lieu of having a discretionary fund as part of the operating budget. Mr. McKay asked Mr. Wooten to investigate this possibility.
- Brian McKay, Chairman
  - Mr. McKay shared that LCMS had asked the Charter Institute at Erskine ("Erskine") whether the school could receive a discount on its operating fee, but Erskine declined.
  - LCMS also inquired whether the school could have a representative on Erskine's board, but were told that such a commitment could not be made at this time. Mr. Shick had suggested that Erskine consider establishment of an advisory board outside of its governing board, and Erskine signaled openness to that idea.
  - Mr. Wooten indicated that Erskine representatives may attend future LCMS Board meetings and offer modes of support that Greenville County Schools did not provide.

## OLD BUSINESS

- None

## NEW BUSINESS

- Christmas Discussion
  - Gifts for LCMS faculty were funded through contribution from students' parents in the past, but the school's accountant cautioned against that practice.
  - Gifts for faculty and a holiday party are accounted for in the LCMS operating budget, but the Board is asked to take specific action each year in lieu of being obligated.
  - Between gifts of approximately \$400 per teacher and a holiday party and dinner that costs approximately \$100 per teacher, an estimated total of \$16,000 is needed to cover both types of expenses.
  - Mr. Wooten acknowledged that the LCMS Foundation has helped cover taxes in the past. Mr. McKay suggested that the LCMS Foundation be asked about the possibility of contributing funds in the future.
  - Mr. McKay recommended that the Board consider allocating \$18,000 to fund a holiday party and gifts for LCMS employees.
    - Daniel Lumm made a motion that the Board allocated \$18,000 to fund a holiday party and gifts for LCMS employees.
    - The motion was seconded by Stacey Wilson.
    - All were in favor, and the motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

**MOTION: ADJOURN MEETING**

- Brooke Archenhold made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by Kyle Snipes.
- All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**

November 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm