

MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

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

MEETING NOTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

MOTION: APPROVE AGENDA

- Corey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Stacey Wilson.
- All were in favor, and the agenda was approved.

MOTION: APPROVE OCTOBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES

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

LANGSTON FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS

- Social Studies – Matt Griffin, Hayley Long, Aaron Temples, Jim Van Valkenburgh
 - All Social Studies Department faculty except Matt Griffin were in attendance. The faculty shared remarks regarding the content covered in social studies courses at each grade level and the skills addressed and/or fostered in each course.
- Spanish – Britta Bell, Kathy Feigenbaum, Noemi Guerrero, Larissa Stevens
 - All Spanish Department faculty members were present. It was acknowledged that mandatory Spanish coursework is unique at Langston (“LCMS”), as it is not typically taught in middle school.

The faculty shared remarks about the Spanish content covered at each grade level and acknowledged that 8th graders receive credit for a Spanish I high school-level course upon successful completion of their class. David Wooten commented that Spanish teachers from area high schools often comment on the great preparation LCMS students receive in middle school.

REPORTS

- David Wooten, Principal's report
 - October was a busy month with management of the 2024-25 admission lottery and hosting interest meetings at the school for families interested in sending their children to Langston. A total of 373 students applied for admission to LCMS: 185 boys and 188 girls. Of the students who tentatively obtained a spot through the lottery, 33 of 66 boys and 23 of 69 girls have siblings at the school. Mr. Wooten acknowledged that attendance at an interest meeting has not been mandatory since the COVID-19 pandemic, although interest conferences are conducted with prospective students in the spring and an end-of-year meeting is conducted with parents before the next school year begins. To clarify LCMS expectations and the school's emphasis on student responsibility, there has been some consideration of making attendance at an interest meeting mandatory for families whose children are selected in the lottery, but before any final commitment is made for the students to attend.
 - Chasity Gonzalez inquired about the possibility of establishing a second LCMS campus in the future. Brian McKay responded that the Board will need to take that up for further discussion at a later date.
 - Intake conferences with future LCMS students selected in the 2024-25 lottery will be conducted in January 2024.
 - Winter Measure of Academic Progress ("MAP") testing will begin after Thanksgiving. This assessment is administered three times / year, per state mandate.
 - The Live Free program will begin soon. This is an abstinence-based sex education program conducted annually at LCMS, although other perspectives are also addressed.
 - A group of 8th graders as well as some parents and faculty members recently went on a field trip to Washington, D.C. The school worked with the Orange Sky travel agency on the trip and received great feedback from students, parents, and Dr. Rob Venable about the experience.
 - A group of 83 8th grade students recently took the PSAT. Approximately 30 students of these qualified as Junior Scholars due to their score in Math and/or Language. The average score among LCMS students taking the PSAT was approximately 100 points higher than the average score among participating 8th graders in Greenville County Schools.
 - Two 8th grade teachers that were previously on leave have returned to work.
 - Mr. Wooten acknowledged that LCMS ranked #6 out of 200+ South Carolina middle schools in a recent US News & World Report ranking. The ranking was largely based on past SC READY scores. The student-teacher ratio at LCMS is 17:1.
 - The LCMS leadership team recently met with personnel from the Charter Institute at Erskine ("Erskine") and will attend an Erskine board meeting in the near future. Mr. Wooten will soon convey a letter to Greenville County Schools regarding LCMS selecting Erskine as its new authorizer. Upon receiving this official notification, Greenville County Schools will inform its board of the change.
- Lienne Medford, Academic Affairs
 - No report
- Daniel Lumm, Governance
 - No report
- Kyle Snipes, Facilities

- Mr. Snipes indicated that various subcontractors had been contacted regarding work to be done around the school. He will provide a report at the next Board meeting.
- Andrea Hyman, Treasurer
 - Mrs. Hyman reviewed the LCMS Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss handouts that were distributed to Board members at the meeting.
 - Mrs. Hyman noted that telephone system and marketing expenses for the current fiscal year appeared to have increased or exceeded projections, but acknowledged that Mr. Wooten had provided additional information that explained these variances. The school experienced an unexpected increase in the cost of telephone and internet service after the budget for the 2023-24 school year was approved. Also, the expenses to redesign the LCMS website, which were originally budgeted for the 2022-23 school year, carried over into the 2023-24 school year.
 - A handout with information about the LCMS Foundation's revenue was distributed to the Board, and Mr. Wooten acknowledged that October 2023 had been an excellent month.
- Brian McKay, Chairman
 - Mr. McKay stated that a large team from Erskine visited LCMS on November 1st. During their visit, the contingent from Erskine received a tour and provided information related to the upcoming authorizer change. Mr. Wooten, Mr. McKay, and Mr. Shick indicated they were very pleased with the experience of working with Erskine personnel so far.
 - Cathy Griffith inquired what would happen if Erskine were to cease operations at any point in the future. Mr. Wooten responded that LCMS would presumably be integrated into the South Carolina Public Charter School District if that scenario to occur, citing an example in which that had happened to another school in the past when its authorizer closed.
 - Kyle Snipes inquired whether LCMS administration was excited about any particular resources provided by Erskine. Mr. Wooten said he was excited about the opportunity to confer with administration from other schools who are part of Erskine. Mr. Shick shared that he was happy about the prospect of human resources-related support that Erskine could provide, as well as an opportunity for LCMS to have representation on an Erskine advisory board and associated opportunities to learn from other schools.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- New Club Proposal – Waste/Litter Education and Green Living Club
 - The Board discussed the proposal for the club in question, which would be called “Trash Pandas”. In response to questions about club expenses, Mr. Wooten stated that all clubs are self-supported. If there are any costs associated with proposed club activities, they would need to be described in the proposal and a way to address them would need to be provided. Following discussion, several Board members expressed that they want to ensure that any transportation-related logistics and needs are addressed.
 - Daniel Lumm made a motion that the Board approve the new club proposal.
 - The motion was seconded by Kyle Snipes.
 - All were in favor, and the motion carried.
- New Staff Position Proposals Related to the Transition to Erskine
 - Temporary Staff Position – Student Records Clerk

- Mr. Wooten explained that when LCMS leaves Greenville County Schools and becomes part of the Charter Institute at Erskine, then various paper records generated by LCMS must be returned to Greenville County Schools for long-term retention. Before these records are turned over, they must be copied so that LCMS can retain paper records as well. In light of the amount of documents to be copied, Mr. Wooten estimates it will take 10-12 days to complete this project, and he would like to retain an employee on a temporary basis to complete this work.
- In response to questions about this project's impact on school operations, Mr. Wooten informed the Board that there is an additional photocopier, which is used less than other photocopiers by faculty and staff, that could be used for this project without disrupting operations or other teachers' copying activities.
 - Corey Shick made a motion that the Board authorize LCMS to fill a temporary Student Records Clerk position in accordance with Mr. Wooten's request.
 - The motion was seconded by Brooke Archenhold.
 - All were in favor, and the motion carried.
- Full-Time Staff Position – IT Technician / Data Clerk
 - Greenville County Schools currently manages LCMS student data, but upon moving to Erskine as its new authorizer, the school will move to a new platform for its student data called PowerSchool. Erskine does not manage individual schools' student data in PowerSchool; rather, they recommend designating someone on staff at the individual school and training them to manage the platform and the associated records. Mr. Wooten indicated that existing LCMS faculty and staff do not have the time to assume management of the forthcoming PowerSchool platform, but that if a new position were created to address this need, he could also envision that person assuming administration of Microsoft products and potentially providing broader information technology support for the school.
 - After further discussion with the Board, it was determined that Mr. Wooten would conduct further investigation into the anticipated time commitment to manage PowerSchool both short-term and long-term, the range of duties and responsibilities that would be associated with the position, and the proposed salary range, and other considerations. Mr. Wooten indicated he would do further research, then present findings to the Board as well as an updated proposal at a later date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

MOTION: ADJOURN MEETING

- Brooke Archenhold made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by Stacey Wilson.
- All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

NEXT MEETING

December 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm