

MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Present	Sherrie Brookie
	Chasity Gonzalez (remote)
	Brian McKay
	Brian Morrison
	Laura Raby
	Corey Shick
	Kyle Snipes
	Alison Thompson
	Gina Turcotte
	Rob Venable
	Stacey Wilson
	David Wooten
Lisa Stevens (guest)	
Absent	Brooke Archenhold
	Cathy Griffith
	Andrea Hyman
	Lienne Medford

MEETING NOTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

MOTION: APPROVE AGENDA

- Brian McKay made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Kyle Snipes.
- All were in favor, and the agenda was approved.

MOTION: APPROVE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

- Stacey Wilson made a motion to approve the September 2024 board meeting minutes as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Laura Raby.
- All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FOUNDING OF LANGSTON CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Lisa Stevens, founding board chair of Langston Charter Middle School, shared information with the board about the school's founding, the process involved, and the origin of many of the school's distinctive values and practices.

REPORTS

- David Wooten, Principal's report
 - Mr. Wooten shared information about Hurricane Helene's impact on the school. He noted that a fallen tree destroyed one section of fence, but that no further tree damage was incurred. A leaning cypress tree in one area will eventually require removal. Some flooding occurred in the butterfly garden area, and an adjacent building experienced some water intrusion. Most students and faculty members had their power and internet service restored prior to returning to school on Tuesday, 10/8/24; however, restoration of power and/or internet has been slower for a small number of students and faculty. A few families have been displaced from their homes due to the storm and its impact, and school personnel are investigating options to provide support to those families. At this time, it's unclear whether the missed days of school will be added back at the end of the school year. Also, as a consequence of the storm and missed days, the end of the academic quarter has been moved.
 - To ensure consistent communication with parents during emergency situations, Brian McKay suggested that the school consider investigating a system that would allow the school to send notifications to parents via text message.
 - Mr. Wooten shared that LCMS was recently recognized as a national Blue Ribbon school for its high academic achievement. LCMS and other Blue Ribbon honoree schools will be recognized at a banquet hosted in Washington, D.C. in November 2024.
 - LCMS recently hosted 15 leaders from other schools that also have the Charter Institute at Erskine as their authorizer.
 - The LCMS lottery information meeting that was previously scheduled for Saturday, October 12 has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 19. Additional lottery information meetings will be hosted on Thursday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 29. Despite the impact of Hurricane Helene, the school received over 100 lottery applications during the first weekend in October. The first tour of the month for interested families was held this week, with 20 families attending. The school has been advertising the school's admissions lottery using a digital billboard near the Red Robin gas station on Woodruff Road.
 - Select LCMS students will take the PSAT next week.
 - The school's annual trip to Washington, D.C. for 8th grade students will be from October 23-26.
 - The school's Spirit Week has been moved to the final week of October following the Washington, D.C. trip.
- Alison Thompson, Langston Foundation
 - Mrs. Thompson distributed copies of a Langston Foundation Monthly Fundraising Summary handout and provided additional information regarding fundraising activities and revenue so far in the current school year. She noted that in September 2024, the Foundation netted funds from CDs as well as student sales of coupon books.
 - Mrs. Thompson shared information about the upcoming Barn Bash event and acknowledged notable revenue from ticket sales and sponsorships. She also shared that the event had been moved to Friday, November 8.
 - Mrs. Thompson drew attention to a handout featuring fundraising totals broken down by source, noting that the greatest percentage so far in the current year has come from parent donations.
 - Mrs. Thompson noted that she is interested in offering brick pavers as a fundraising activity, but will pursue them further in early winter.
 - In response to a question regarding the current school year's fundraising goal, Mrs. Thompson stated it is \$235,000.
- David Wooten, Academic Affairs
 - In Lienne Medford's absence, Mr. Wooten noted that he and Mrs. Medford were working together on a presentation for the SC Public Charter School Alliance Conference later in the year.

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- Brooke Archenhold, Governance
 - No report.
- Kyle Snipes, Facilities
 - Mr. Snipes indicated that he and school leadership are working on recommendations for remedying issues with window seals, drainage, and HVAC mechanical units. He indicated he will share more information in a report at the November 2024 meeting.
- Brian McKay, Treasurer
 - Mr. McKay presented the Treasurer's report in Andrea Hyman's absence.
 - The LCMS Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss handouts were shared with Board members.
 - Mr. McKay noted that no activity on the handouts was out of the ordinary, and that the school was well ahead of budget in net income.
 - Mr. McKay shared that the school had never capitalized any of its expenses, but that there are some advantages to capitalizing such costs. He noted that the school was beginning discussion with its CPA, but that this was only being shared as information and that no board action was needed at this time. He further noted that this change would only be made if there will be a financial benefit to the school.
- Corey Shick, Chairman
 - Mr. Shick noted he received an inquiry from another charter school in the area that requested a copy of the LCMS bylaws. The Charter Institute at Erskine was consulted regarding what information to share. Mr. Shick noted that if school personnel or board members are contacted by representatives from other schools requesting copies of the LCMS bylaws or charter, please refer the representative to their school's authorizer.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Christmas Discussion
 - Mr. Wooten noted that in previous years, the board has authorized a Christmas bonus for teachers, although the amount has never been set and is subject to board approval each year. Also, over the past 3 years, the school administration has requested board permission to fund a Christmas party for the school staff. It was noted that in 2023, the board funded \$100 per staff member for a Christmas party / activity and \$400 per staff member for a bonus. It was also noted that the LCMS Foundation has previously paid taxes and FICA expenses associated with employee bonuses. Parents of current LCMS students typically give gifts to school staff, but that is organized by parents as a separate initiative.
 - Following discussion, Sherrie Brooke made a motion that the board approve expenditure of up to \$22,000 for holiday party and employee bonus expenses at \$100 per staff member for a party and \$500 per staff member for employee bonuses.
 - The motion was seconded by Stacey Wilson.
 - All were in favor, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

MOTION: ADJOURN MEETING

- Sherrie Brookie made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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- The motion was seconded by Brian McKay.
- All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

NEXT MEETING

November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm