LANGSTON
CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Present	Jessica Blanton Sherrie Brookie Stephanie Estrada Cathy Griffith Lienne Medford Brian Morrison Laura Raby Corey Shick Neil Tabor Rob Venable David Wooten Naomi Morgan, Charter Institute at Erskine
Absent	Brooke Archenhold Gina Turcotte

MEETING NOTES

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- Lienne Medford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Laura Raby.
- All were in favor, and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE MAY 2025 JOINT MEETING OF THE LCMS SCHOOL BOARD AND LCMS FOUNDATION BOARD

- Laura Raby made a motion to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes as presented.
- The motion was seconded by Cathy Griffith.
- All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

REPORTS

- David Wooten, Principal's Report
    - Mr. Wooten noted that the school's theme for the year is "Progress Over Perfection," with the goal of motivating students, particularly those suffering from anxiety associated with their pursuit of perfection, to strive for excellence while expecting that perfection is not attainable.
    - School administration has been evaluating safety and security procedures and also exploring the potential refreshing or updating of school technology.

- Mr. Wooten noted that he would like to introduce several workshops for the school's parents during the 2025-26 school year. The first, planned for September 2025, will be a workshop on safety-related topics, with topics for two other workshops later in the school year to be determined.
- Mr. Wooten noted several school personnel changes that had occurred since the end of the prior school year. Matt Jackson has been hired as teacher in the Math Department, and he also brings prior experience as a school principal. Jordan Steading, formerly employed with Hillcrest High School, has been hired as a teacher in the Science Department. June Deas transitioned from her former role as Director of Campus Affairs to her new role as Athletics Coordinator. Gabby Lollis, formerly the school's Communications Coordinator, has transitioned into the Director of Campus Affairs position.
- Mr. Wooten shared that the school's lunch options have changed: Culver's and Firehouse Subs are no longer available but have been replaced with options provided by Whataburger and Tropical Grill.
- Mr. Wooten noted that the exterior of the school was recently pressure washed, which has greatly enhanced its appearance. It had been 4-5 years since the exterior had been cleaned.
- Mr. Wooten shared that a recent parent workday at the school had gone very well and that various projects were completed around the school property. Included in those projects was the installation of a new telephone system, which allows remote use of the phone system from staff members' mobile devices and other modern applications that will support efficient communication with parents and e-learning.
- Mr. Wooten noted that the school is in the process of changing the locks on classroom doors to "storage locks", which require a key for entry at all times. Moreover, to help secure the school grounds and prevent unauthorized access, gates at the school parking lot entrances will be secured over the weekends.
- Mr. Wooten stated that it may be prudent to create an evaluation process for the school facility and grounds to guide decision-making. He further noted that while the school's elevator is still in operation, there is a component that is no longer serviceable and there would be a considerable expense to replace it, potentially ranging from $80,000 - $120,000.
    - Corey Shick summarized principal responsibilities of the school's Board of Directors as well as the Langston Foundation Board, noting that the Foundation, as the owner of the school facility, is ultimately responsible for the school building.
    - Stephanie Estrada noted that it would be appropriate for Mr. Wooten to notify the Foundation Board about the condition of the school's elevator and that the Foundation may wish to consider establishment of a reserve fund since it may take some time to accumulate the necessary funds for replacement of the necessary elevator component.
- Mr. Wooten noted that while the school continues to engage the services of the same bookkeeper as in previous years, a new auditor has been retained who has notable school auditing experience. Mr. Wooten also shared that the school's chart of accounts will need to be evaluated to ensure it's in sufficient alignment with guidelines provided by the State of South Carolina.
- Mr. Wooten shared that the school received a request from the South Carolina Department of Employment & Workforce to conduct an audit of the 2024-25 school year. He noted this is the first time this has occurred in the school's history, but that all required documentation is being prepared for submission.
- Recent State Legislation Affecting Charter Schools
    - Mr. Wooten shared that it will be necessary for the school to develop a policy for livestreaming school board meetings as well as any other public meetings conducted by

the school. A model policy was included as part of the current meeting packet. It will be necessary to develop a similar policy for implementation by January 2026.

        - During board discussion, questions were raised about whether it is permissible for an ad hoc committee or a group of board members that does not constitute a quorum of the full school board to meet without the requirement to livestream. Naomi Morgan from the Charter Institute at Erskine indicated she would investigate such questions further and follow up with additional information.
        - Mr. Wooten also shared that pursuant to a requirement in state law, the school will incorporate seizure training into its broader training plans and fulfill any other associated requirements.
    - State Budget Changes to Charter School Funding Formula
        - Mr. Wooten noted that there was a recent change in state funding that will directly affect virtual schools. Although this change in the funding rate did not change for "brick and mortar" schools, it was noted that charter schools still are not funded at the same level as local school districts in the state and have far fewer sources of revenue available to them. While it does not fully account for the differences in per-pupil funding between charter schools and traditional public school districts, a multiplier is applied to charter schools' state funding, which is intended to partially account for their inability to obtain additional funding through measures available to traditional public schools. As additional information, Mr. Wooten drew board members' attention to a letter included in the board packet from Mr. Cameron Runyan, CEO & Superintendent of The Charter Institute at Erskine. Mr. Shick noted that the school's rate of state funding is updated each January and is informed by the schools' prior school year audit information that is supplied in the preceding November.
    - Mr. Wooten noted that the final virtual training opportunity for board members, particularly new board members for whom the training is required, is on August 26 at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
- Langston Foundation
    - No report
- Academic Affairs
    - No report. Mr. Shick noted that the board's Academic Affairs liaison for the current school year would be determined later in the meeting following nominations and confirmation by a majority vote of the board.
- Governance
    - No report. Mr. Shick noted that the board's Governance liaison for the current school year would be determined later in the meeting following nominations and confirmation by a majority vote of the board.
- Facilities
    - Mr. Shick noted that Mr. Kyle Snipes was previously the Facilities liaison on the board. Since Mr. Snipes is no longer serving on the board, Mr. Shick will assume this role for the time being until a new Facilities liaison is nominated and confirmed by a majority vote of the board.
- Treasurer
    - Mr. Shick noted that the Treasurer, as part of that person's report, typically would review the school's Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements. As with other liaisons and board officers, Mr. Shick noted that the board's Treasurer for the current school year would be determined later in the meeting following nominations and confirmation by a majority vote of the board.

- Mr. Shick briefly reviewed the meaning of the information provided on the Balance Sheet that was provided as part of the board packet and invited other board members to provide feedback if they have suggestions or recommended changes for how the financial information is presented.
- Mr. Wooten noted that the school is in the process of applying for federal E-Rate funding and that receipt of anticipated funding is expected to defray the school's telephone expenses, which are currently high, by over 50%. He further noted that the school will be receiving E-Rate funds over the next two years to provide other updates to technology infrastructure, such as routers and related network equipment, which will increase the school's internet connection speed.

- Corey Shick, Chairman
  - Mr. Shick shared that teacher retention bonuses, which the board previously agreed to fund using Title II funds, were provided at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Consideration of Proposal for Optional Class Offering: Released-Time Sponsored by Christian Learning Centers of Greenville County
  - Mr. Wooten shared he had been contacted by Woodruff Road Christian Church about partnering with Christian Learning Centers of Greenville County on a Released-Time Christian Education learning program. Mr. Wooten summarized the church's proposal and drew board members' attention to a fact sheet about Christian Learning Centers of Greenville County that was included in the board packet. If the Released Time learning program were offered to Langston students, participation would not take the place of or affect any core classes; student participation would be voluntary only with parental consent and would involve students leaving their Leadership class once per week if and when they wish to participate. Participation would not be mandatory each week. In response to a question, Mr. Wooten clarified that if implemented, students would be chaperoned and walked from the school to the church, which is located opposite the school campus on Bell Road.
  - During discussion, several board members expressed interest in obtaining references from other schools where the Released-Time program had been implemented. Mr. Wooten indicated he could reach out to principals at schools where the program had been implemented. Several board members also questioned whether this offering, which could decrease students' attendance and participation in the school's Leadership classes, would align with the school's core value of Leadership Training. Following discussion, no board action was taken.
- Purchase of Additional Student Devices
  - Mr. Venable noted that, as was discussed with the school board during the 2024-25 school year, some of the school's devices for students' classroom activities and test administration are aging and may need to be replaced. Specifically, some of the school's iPads that were purchased in 2017 are candidates for replacement, provided the board approves. After some investigation, school administration is interested in purchasing Chromebook devices to replace the previously mentioned iPads. Specifically, school administration is interested in purchasing approximately 240 devices, which, when combined with associated expenses and other necessary equipment, could total approximately $120,000. If approved, the iPads purchased in 2017 could be sold in order to recoup some funds while newer iPads purchased in 2021 could be retained for various applications, which could increase the number of devices available for test administration at various points in the school year. Mr. Venable also noted that the school has been using two

laptop labs, but that those devices have exhibited problems over the years and some have had to be decommissioned.
    - The board discussed the proposed use of funds to purchase devices. During discussion, it was noted that the proposed expense was not included in the school's operating budget for 2025-26 school year. Additional funding possibilities were discussed, including the use of funds that the school currently has available in a money market account as well as the prospect of approaching the Langston Foundation for support. In response to a question from a board member, Mr. Venable noted that if the school was approved to purchase the requested devices in the current school year, it would be advantageous to implement them by January 2026.
    - No board action was taken. Mr. Shick requested that school administration provide additional information and noted that the board will revisit the matter at its September 2025 meeting.
- Account for Deposit of Charter School Funds
    - Mr. Shick noted that this item, which had been listed on the meeting agenda, pertained to a school operational matter and did not warrant discussion or board action.
- Board Reorganization / Officers
    - Vice Chairman
        - There were no nominations for the office of Vice Chairman. Consequently, Mr. Shick noted that nominations for the position would be revisited at the board's next meeting.
    - Treasurer
        - Cathy Griffith made a motion nominating Stephanie Estrada to serve as Treasurer for the 2025-26 school year.
        - The motion was seconded by Lienne Medford.
        - All were in favor, and the motion carried.
    - Secretary
        - Sherrie Brookie made a motion nominating Brian Morrison to serve as Secretary for the 2025-26 school year.
        - The motion was seconded by Laura Raby.
        - All were in favor, and the motion carried.
    - Academic Affairs
        - Laura Raby made a motion nominating Lienne Medford to serve as the board's Academic Affairs liaison for the 2025-26 school year.
        - The motion was seconded by Neil Tabor.
        - All were in favor, and the motion carried.
    - Governance
        - There were no nominations for the Governance liaison position. Consequently, Mr. Shick noted that nominations for the position would be revisited at the board's next meeting.
    - Facilities
        - There were no nominations for the Facilities liaison position. Consequently, Mr. Shick noted that nominations for the position would be revisited at the board's next meeting.
- 2025-26 Board Meeting Schedule
    - Mr. Shick and Mr. Wooten drew board members' attention to the Board Meeting Suggested Dates handout included in the board packet and acknowledged that it was the board's typical practice to

conduct meetings at 6:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. No board members noted any conflicts or concerns regarding the suggested meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

ADJOURN

- Laura Raby made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by Stephanie Estrada.
- All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

NEXT MEETING

September 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm