



## **1.0 Opening of Regular Meeting**

*Board Chair Daniel Filler called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm. Board members present were Michael Bryant, Daniel Filler, Michael Meyer, Mary Peery, Jennifer Thayer, Tracy Trussell and Ian Stout, Principal.*

## **2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

*Mrs. Thayer made the following motion: "Mr. Chair, I would like to make a motion to insert at 4.1 a 'Financial Compliance Update' with the current agenda items following in the same order. In addition, I would like to amend the proposed agenda to move item 4.0 Discussion Items before 3.0 Public Participation". Board Chair Mr. Filler restated Mrs. Thayer's motion to verify his understanding was correct then asked for any discussion. With no discussion, Mr. Filler asked for a second. Mr. Trussell seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **3.0 Discussion Items**

### **3.1 Financial compliance update**

Submitted by Mrs. Peery

Mrs. Peery addressed the issue of an article in the Reporter Herald published on March 31, 2015 suggesting that LCS was out of financial compliance. LCS is not and has never been out of financial compliance. Upon review of the information posted on the LCS website under Financial Transparency, it was determined that one of the items mentioned in the article as missing was actually on the website but misnamed. This has been corrected. Additionally, it was discovered that three of the quarterly financial reports from the 2012-2013 school year, though previously posted, were no longer posted on the website. It was determined that those documents were lost when the website was rebuilt after being hacked earlier in the year. Those documents were recovered and reposted to the website on March 31st.

### **3.2 Review of information regarding the 2015-2016 school year decision**

Submitted by Mrs. Peery

Mr. Stout presented a summary of the current spacing and financial constraints highlighting the long-term financial needs in order to support growth, followed by the Administration's final recommendation to continue high school for one more year at a second site that is still to be determined. The recommendation continues that clear, comprehensive and measurable benchmarks will be defined by the Administration, and approved by the Board, in order to support this model past next year. Further, the high school decision will be reevaluated in November 2016 after October count based off the outcomes of the benchmarks. If the benchmarks that are set are not met, the Administration will recommend the discontinuation of the high school past next year.

After Mr. Stout's conclusion of the presentation, board members asked clarifying questions about the presentation and the financial assumptions and trade-offs made to balance a K-12 budget. Questions around the creation of clear, comprehensive and measurable benchmarks by the Administration for approval by the Board; impact to academic quality moving forward with a K-12 model; impact to staff and their

compensation; impact to families having students at both sites; the risk associated with not having a second site secured, renovation costs finalized, or city approval; and whether the staff has been polled and is in support of this recommendation were expressed by the Board and responded to by Mr. Stout.

After questions concluded, Mr. Stout presented a preliminary timeline, benchmarks and implementation proposal from the Administration, reiterating that this presentation was a first draft and would be more thoroughly vetted and submitted for review at the April 23, 2015 Board Regular Meeting.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Stout's proposal, Mr. Filler asked each board member to respond to the Administration's recommendation to move forward with high school for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Mr. Bryant expressed his concern for this approach, stating that this effort will take a significant effort to be successful and that all the LCS parents, especially those with students in high school, will need to step up and support this effort to succeed with achieving Mr. Stout's proposal.

Mrs. Peery stated her appreciation of the partnership with and leadership of this Administration, then reiterated the fiduciary responsibilities of the board and the high risk associated with moving forward with a high school concluding that she was willing to go down this path provided the Administration bring the Board a viable option and a plan behind it with clear checkpoints and measures which can be executed. Mrs. Peery encouraged the audience to back the Administration in its efforts restating it will take everyone for the plan to be successful.

Mr. Meyer commented that this recommendation to move forward with a high school for next year was brought to the Board late last night, with the written recommendation and supporting documentation emailed the morning of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Meyer believes that the recommendation carries a lot of risk, but with a timeline and measurable benchmarks in place, he was willing to give it a go.

Mr. Trussell addressed the audience thanking everyone for coming and encouraged future attendance at Board meetings reminding the audience that all Board meetings are open and the public is welcome all the time. Mr. Trussell further stated that Mr. Stout, Mr. Boylan and Mrs. Brossia have all been reachable and the school is lucky to have them. Mr. Trussell stated what he likes best about the recommendation is that it has heart and that with everyone's continued support, he is willing to go down this path.

Mrs. Thayer expressed her hope in the recommendation stating that it is what all the Board was wanting, but up until early this morning when the recommendation was received, it wasn't what was expected from the Administration due to the financial realities of the school. Mrs. Thayer restated that the crisis isn't over and this will be discussed again next November, but was hopeful clear benchmarks will be put in place and parents will step up to the task.

Mr. Filler stated that a recommendation to move forward with high school is something he longs to see continue, but also understands the financial realities and risks involved in moving forward with this recommendation. Mr. Filler urged the audience to not lose the passion that had been shown tonight, and rally to support the Administration to meet the required benchmarks.

Upon conclusion of the Board remarks, Mr. Boylan expressed his commitment to this recommendation stating that the past few weeks have been really hard, but today he

was doing well because he believes the recommendation has integrity since it was brought forth with the right heart and the right motives, and he believes it can be accomplished with the right team.

### 3.3 Risk discussion on K-8 and K-12 options

Submitted by Mrs. Peery

Due to a last minute change in the recommendation from the Administration this discussion was no longer applicable as only the K-12 option was presented.

## 4.0 Public Participation

### 4.1 Public Comment

Mrs. Donna Rice spoke in appreciation of her attendance at the meeting to witness how well-behaved and respectful the audience was during a difficult and charged meeting.

Mr. Andrew Perez, LCS senior, expressed gratitude to the board and administration for allowing the continuation of the K-12 model for another year.

Mr. Jonathan Savelle, LCS senior, expressed gratitude the board and administration for allowing the continuation of the K-12 model for another year.

Mr. Justin King, LCS teacher, spoke in support of LCS' high school seniors, expressing that it was a pleasure to have been able to teach them.

Dr. Shane Gassaway, LCS teacher, spoke in disagreement to the high school retention issue stating that if parents in the community could meet our high school students, those parents would want their children to turn out like them.

Mr. Andrew McIntyre, LCS 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, expressed his desire to attend LCS for his high school experience.

Mrs. Katie Reed, LCS teacher, spoke about her happiness to work at LCS and the potential of this school and its students as amazing.

Mr. Luke Johnson expressed his support of the school and for parents to rally together to support the upcoming benchmarks.

Mrs. Merrily Fitzpatrick, LCS staff, expressed her pleasure with her children attending LCS and pledged support to help with the upcoming benchmarks.

Mrs. Danielle McCormick stated she is in support of maintaining a high school but expressed deep concern about whether parents will actually show up to do the work required to meet the enrollment and fundraising benchmarks.

Ms. Molly Miller expressed her gratitude for the continuation of high school for another year.

Mrs. Kathy Miller, LCS staff, expressed her gratitude for the continuation of high school as well as praised the dedication and ability of the rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade class to lead LCS to be one of the top in the state and the nation.

Mrs. Kirsten Grove, LCS staff, thanked the administration and board for their hours of time and dedication and asked that the board continue to let parents know what is needed to continue the high school past one more year.

Mr. Noah Lebsack expressed his backing in rallying parents to support the upcoming benchmarks.

Mr. David Rotner, LCS teacher, stated that regardless of whether the decision is to continue high school past next year, the school needs to raise funds in order to grow. He reiterated that the benchmarks are important, but if not hit, then the decision needs to be made in November 2016 and the school and its community needs to move forward

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Respectfully submitted by:

Board Adopted: 04/23/2015

Jennifer Thayer, Board Secretary

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with the decision. He urged parents to support the upcoming benchmarks expressing his belief that the LCS Community can do it.

Ms. Marissa Menking, LCS senior, expressed her support for the continuation of high school.

Ms. TesSaundra Lamb-Smith, LCS student, expressed her support for LCS and her appreciation for being able to attend school there.

## **5.0 Action Items**

### **5.1 K-8 vs. K-12 Forward Path**

*Due to a last minute change in the recommendation from the Administration, no motion was made and no vote was taken in regard to K-8 vs. K-12 forward path. As per the recommendation of the Administration, the K-12 model will remain in effect for the 2015-2016 school year and will be under review pending fulfillment of hard benchmarks in November 2015. The aforementioned hard benchmarks will be vetted and a proposal submitted to the board for review at the April 23, 2015 Board Regular Meeting.*

## **6.0 Adjournment**

*At 7:58 pm, Mr. Meyer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Peery seconded and with no discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.*