**Lighthouse Community School specializes in highly individualized, flexible, and intensive strategies to meet the educational needs of youth in the child welfare system.  We take pride in employing unconditional positive approaches to foster a safe, stable community that develops effective social skills and enhances academic progress for students whose current or ongoing needs are best met in our small school.**

**Lighthouse Community School Board Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2016**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair, Dr. David Greenfield, on April 18, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Lighthouse Youth Services, 401 E. McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45206.

Board Members Present: Dr. David Greenfield, Nancy Shepardson, Carolyn Campbell, Louise Gomer Bangel, Dr. Fran Unger, and Allison Kahn

Staff: Judy Oakman, Nicki Hagler, Shannon Kiniyalocts, Elissa Veite, Daniel Trujillo, and Bob Mecum

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**.

David Greenfield welcomed all board members, staff, and guests. Ms. Shepardson moved and Dr. Fran Unger seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, on 12/14/15. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer, Nicki Hagler, presented the Board members with copies of December, January, February, and March’s financials (Attached). The unrestricted cash balance is holding steady. The Balance sheet is showing a positive number.

The audit was closed out and there was a positive overall report. There was one recommendation surrounding the Urban Agriculture account. The suggestion was to add more review. The Five year forecast- appears to be adequate and inline; anticipate a break even or financial gain of $100,000.

Ms. Hagler, presented once again information surrounding the changes to the state pension liability due to new GASB 68 accounting standards, occurring nationwide. Lighthouse Community School will have a pension liability of approximately $2,000,000.00. This will reflect poorly on the balance sheet.

Ms. Campbell moved and Ms. Unger seconded a motion to approve the financial report for December through March. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Campbell moved and Ms. Unger seconded a motion to approve the five year forecast. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Student Census:**

As of March, 60 FTE students are enrolled. Forty-three of the students are ED, two are LD and fifteen are Regular Ed. Census is holding steady, however has slowly decreased, thus is impacting the financial trend line.

**End of Year Report 2015 (see attached):**

This End of Year Report is usually due on October 31st . However, due to the lateness of PARRC testing results and the state legislature’s decision to switch from PARRC testing to AIR testing created a delay in schools getting testing results. The report was submitted to CPS on March 21st.

Highlights of the report:

While Attendance rate is down, student population has been consistent. Graduation rates are on target and exceeding in comparison to other dropout and recovery schools.

As a Drop Out Recovery School, we met or exceeded the all standards. However, we received “NA” on testing scores since the number of students who test is below the threshold for calculating student progress. The end of year report card does include the percentages of students who passed the tests. These numbers would not meet standards if included in the state report card. There were several issues with the technology and the amount of time spent testing. Testing lasted from the third week in February until the second week in May.

Character testing was difficult as students are being over tested. There was growth/progress; Initial testing could be more grandiose and second testing may be more on target.

Highlights include Urban Agriculture Program. Volunteers to support this has been phenomenal. The amount of food produced is a lot but is seasonal. Hope is to have a greenhouse in the future, so youth may use this program year around.

**Dropout and Recovery school consortium:**

There is a meeting in Columbus tomorrow with legislatures for advocacy both on an individual and group level. Standards for measurements of drop out recovery is occurring this year.

**House Bill 2 Update:**

Policies- Daniel is updating current policies including but not limited to Eligibility of Resident and non-resident students, interrogation of students (Guardian must be present prior to a student being questioned, unless the crime occurred at the school), Child Find (expanded policy per ODE’s request), and College Credit Plus Program.

Motion to approve polices by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Dr. Fran Unger. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Requirements:**

All Board members have completed finger printing as of this date, however there are several that still need to complete the 3 hour training. There are multiple options of taking this training. 1) on-line (Daniel will resend the link). 2) There is a classroom training available in Columbus. 3) Daniel will look to see if there is a trainer that would be willing to come to LYS. Board members will obtain a certificate after the training is completed. This certificate will need to be forwarded to Daniel, when completed.

**Volunteers:**

Ms. Veite reviewed current volunteer s and projects/events occurring. Steve Rock continues to champion the Urban Agriculture program. Review of the 50 gardens project: LCS started this 5 years ago to allow for fresh produce within the community. The community are now purchasing these items. Many community members indicated that they too wanted to garden. Mr. Rock received a grant to implement this. Free beds are distributed by community members through their volunteer work in LCS’ gardens. Community members are asking students for advice. The community has begun to embrace LCS due to these gardens. A new project includes 500 chickens. This project will include building chicken tractors-mobile homes for the chickens. Mr. Rock purchased 100 hens that are in care until homes can be built.

Other volunteers include the University of Cincinnati, Crossroads, the Girls Scouts, GE, the Foresters Insurance, Xavier University, . Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer may contact our volunteer coordinator, Dana Saxton.

GE will be conducting mock interviews next week with students. They will also be sponsoring the annual tractor build and track and field day. They will host a Teacher Appreciation luncheon at Vincenzzo’s in Sharonville on May 312t.

FredHausser will be taking graduation pictures of LCS’ 5 graduates. Graduation ceremonies will occur on May 26, 2016 at 6pm. Awards banquet is on May 27th from 11am to 1pm.

**Updates since last Board meeting:**

There are Staffing transitions occurring over the summer due to life events/circumstances and career changes. Mr. Trujillo has these positions posted and is interviewing candidates through the Teach for America.

Lighthouse Community School’s teachers and staff have proposed modifications to the current school calendar and schedule due to several barriers, which include:

* Students are coming from all areas of the community and many have to utilize public transportation, that requires several hours on the bus
* Some students are parents and finding reliable childcare in conjunction with current school hours, can be burdensome
* Tardiness to school due to the early start

Teacher Appreciation luncheon provided by the Board will occur on June 1, 2016. The board will provide catering through Eli’s barbeque and is asking for both board members and staff to assist in setting up for this event.

**Open Discussion:**

Reviewed the Staff Engagement survey completed by Workplace Dynamics (see attached report). This is a validated survey that provides both results and recommendations based upon LCS staff member’s feedback. This is the first year of the survey, thus will give a baseline of future results. Overall LCS’ results were excellent.