**Lighthouse Community School specializes in highly individualized, flexible, and intensive strategies to meet the educational need 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 – January 12, 2015**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair Kent Friel on January 12, 2015.

**Board members present**: Iva Brown, Chris Harris, Allison Kahn, Kent Friel, Nancy Shepardson, Kevin McDonnell, and Fran Unger

**Staff present**: Judy Oakman, Daniel Trujillo, Jean Sepate, and Bob Mecum (School Treasurer, Nicki Hagler was on speaker phone.)

**Welcome and Approval of Previous Minutes**

Kent Friel welcomed the board members, staff and school treasurer to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 20, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Kent Friel introduced Gary Gardella, from HCESC, a consultant certified by ODE to evaluate principals. Gary is familiar with the school and was the instructor for Daniel when Daniel was getting his principal license. Daniel has selected Gary who will be observing Daniel and then submitting the performance evaluation in about two months to ODE.

**Financial Report**

Judy presented the year to date finances on an accrual basis so that the board could see a comparison to last year at this time. For month ending 12/2014, there is an $89,000 year to date surplus. Last year at this time we had a $9,000 year to date deficit. The significant change is due to increase in funding from CPS beginning in August plus a higher number of students with IEPs.

Lighthouse received a clean audit from Clark Shaeffer Hackett.

Judy reported that Lighthouse received an award from the State of Ohio from the Office of the Auditor for exemplary financial reporting in accordance with GAAP for year 2014 Kevin McDonnell moved and Chris Harris seconded the motion to approve the audit.

**Student Census Report**

The current census of 63 FTEs is about the same as last month but we have more ED students this year. This is a good indicator of serving the kids that need the school most. Many of the students had expired IEPs when they arrived at the school. Alex Quigley and other staff worked closely with Daniel to get all of the IEPs completed by October 31st. This may bring in an additional $70,000 this year to support the extra services that are required for these special education students. Daniel reported that with 46 students with educational and behavioral disabilities, our staff are doing a wonderful job of handling the constant student behavioral problems with good interventions.

**Contract Change Agreement for Cincinnati Public Schools Contract**

Paul Preston, our ODE charter school consultant asked us to amend the contract with CPS to include some new laws and standards that the community schools.

We will be evaluated as a drop out recovery school, however because more than 50% of our students are ED, we will be exempt from closure. The board reviewed the contract change agreement and approved the amendments to the contract.

There was a motion to approve teacher and staff new hires since last board meeting

Ryane Winn - $11.30 hour Instructional Assistant

Dione Reed - $13.30 hour Instructional Assistant

Rebecca Folke - $18.56 hour School Support Specialist

Rebecca Griswold - $37,620 annually Intervention Specialist

Alexandra Lippord - $36,300 annually Intervention Specialist

Tim Murphy - $37,620 annually HQ teacher in PE and Health

Kevin moved and Nancy seconded the motion to approve the new hires.

**Updates Since Last Board Meeting**

Daniel discussed the potential property at the corner of Chandler and Ward Street. The property will be auctioned in June, and Daniel thinks we may be able to purchase it for $3,000. The goal is to still have the students work with GE to build a greenhouse and create a vertical garden that will provide opportunities for students to do service learning. There is another piece of property on the corner of Chapman and Desmond Street which also may be available. Daniel would like to purchase if possible to create a park for students and the community that would have fruit and nut trees.

There is an arts opportunity for students. David Rosenthal will be working with the students again on an arts project through his nonprofit organization. The students will learn about videography and may be paired up with residents of the Lutheran Retirement Village in Madisonville.

The Science lab is up and running and students are very excited to participate in science class this year.

We have 16 lab tops for students, however, the Wi-Fi needs to be upgraded before the students are able to actually use them. The Lighthouse IT department has this on their project list.

Board members and staff have formed a committee to figure out a 10 year anniversary event for GE. GE would want to host it at their learning center and they would want to have it be student focused.

**Organization Changes**

Jean reported that Lighthouse made some organization changes in July that created three large service lines, each headed by a Vice President. The LCS was not included in the service lines as it was a unique service with a separate corporation and a school board. After six months of this reorganization, the executive team felt that the school would benefit by falling under one of the service lines. Daniel felt that the school would fit best with the Behavioral Health service line. Effective March 1, that change will be made. Shannon Kiniyalocts is the Vice President and will become Daniel's supervisor. She will begin to attend the board meetings in March.

**New Dates** **of Next School Board Meetings**

03/16/2015

05/18/2015

07/20/2015

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Jean Sepate