**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 – March 16, 2015**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair Kent Friel on March 16, 2015.

**Board members present**: David Greenfield, Dan Pfau, Chris Harris, Allison Kahn, Kent Friel, Nancy Shepardson, Kevin McDonnell, and Fran Unger

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

**Welcome and Approval of Previous Minutes**

Kent Friel welcomed the board members, staff including a new staff member, Shannon Kiniyalocts, VP of Behavioral Health & Psychiatric Services, and school treasurer to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting held on January 12, 2015 were approved as submitted.

**Financial Report**

Nicki Hagler presented the financial report. Through February, the school has a surplus of $103,000. This arises from a higher than expected student population, a few unfilled positions during the year, and a transfer from the Foundation.

**Iva Brown**

Kent led the group in a silent tribute to Iva Brown, who passed away in early March.

**Student Census Report**

Daniel gave the student enrollment report. There has been a drop of six FTE's due to kids dropping out, incarceration, moving to a new foster home out of district, and youth transferring to other public schools. Daniel explained that if a student is on an IEP and recorded so in October, there is an adjustment in income. However, if the student enrolls after October, there is no adjustment. Likewise, if a student's IEP has expired at the time of enrollment, it does not count toward the financial adjustment but the child still is counted as eligible for the service in the expired plan. Even though the October count has an impact on IEP adjusted funding, the Charter Schools are paid on the basis of actual count during the school year.

**General ODE Updates**

Daniel gave the General ODE Update. We received the benefit from the 15 year biennium amendment that offers the LCS the additional funding. ODE standards now require us to test students four times per year. As long as we have the amendment that also provides the additional funding, we are exempt from closure if we maintain a student population of at least 50% special education students.

**ODE Required Student Testing**

Kent reported that a recent study he learned about from UC indicates that any school in Ohio with a population of 20% or more special needs almost always fails the school report cards.

Daniel reported that there will be financial consequences for schools whose students do not take the new ODE required tests. The State Auditor has also suggested that youth who miss seven straight days or 15 days in a year will not be counted for payment. This is a proposal and not a law at this point.

Elissa reported on student testing. She reported that the students were generally positive about the tests and that is seems to be the most positive test we have used. We also conducted the required assessments for certain courses. We had PARCC testing for language, science, and math. This was a difficult test to administer . All but two students have completed their testing at this point. We had 38 students take the OGT tests this past week.

More testing next week and then two weeks later, there will be more tests, and yet more tests coming. These tests are causing a big backlash all over the state. At the LCS, for example, we have spent the last four weeks either preparing for or administering the tests.

**School Board Member Terms and Officers**

Kent reviewed the current status of school board terms. Kevin McDonnell, Bob Halonen, and Kent Friel will term off in September, 2015, after completing their third three year term. The board has authorization for up to 15 members, of whom three may be appointed upon their election by the school board. At least 50% of the trustees must be serving on the board of LYS.

**Updates Since Last Board Meeting**

Elissa reported on a variety of service learning projects and reported that there will be eight students who will be eligible for graduation.

Kent reported that the staff appreciation luncheon will be held again and Nancy Shepardson volunteered along with Kent Friel, Fran Unger, Carolyn Campbell, and Chris Harris will volunteer to serve as well. It will take place in June. Members were asked to contribute $10 each and give the money to Nancy.

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

05/18/2015

07/20/2015 at the Lighthouse Community School

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Mecum