**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 – July 20, 2015**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair Kent Friel on July 20, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Lighthouse Community School Building at 6100 Desmond Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45227.

Board Members Present: Chris Harris, Gloria Samuel, Dr. David Greenfield, Nancy Shepardson, Carolyn Campbell, Susan Frankel, Louise Bangel, Fran Unger

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

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

David Greenfield welcomed all board members, staff and guests.

Nancy Shepardson moved and Fran Unger seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed.

**Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Nicki Hagler, presented the Board members with copies of September financials. June’s report is the end report and shows a $120,000 surplus. Cash flow was negative due to the 75K receivable from CPS.

Revenue was higher than budgeted partly because of the higher census. Expenses were on budget.

Fifty eight percent of expenses were spent on student instruction. Ms. Hagler reported that schools should spend at least fifty percent on instruction and LCS is well above that.

Ms. Shepardson moved and Mr. McDonnell second a motion to approve the financial report for May and June. The motion was passed.

**Student Census**

Daniel Trujillo reported that the student census for next year still remains unclear. Most JFS case workers do not begin to fill out the enrollment packets until the end of July. Last year we had a healthy number of students who showed up with their enrollment packets the first day of school. This created a difficult opening for the school since the staff did not have sufficient information on the students to get the correct class schedules. Most of the behavioral and disciplinary issues arose from the lack of useful information from the parent/or guardians of the students. Staff had a difficult time engaging with the students because they were so new. Mr. Trujillo is anticipating that the 2016 school year will start off the same way as last year. Shannon Kiniyalocts suggested that Mr. Trujillo work with the Behavioral Health Services team’s Master Level students to assist with engaging students for the beginning two weeks of the school year.

**ODE Updates**

**Assessment:** Prior to July 1st, 2015 Ohio was a member of the Common Core, a group of states that contracted with PARRC to provide the standardized Math and Language Arts testing. Ohio will no longer be using Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). ODE will contract with American Institute for Research (AIR) to provide all assessments for Ohio students. These assessments will be a bit shorter than the PARCC tests. The internet connectivity issues should be much better with AIR.

**Funding:** Facilities funding for brick and mortar community schools increased to $150 per-pupil. *This represents an increase of $50 over current law*

First time funding for facilities for E-schools of $25 per-pupil. *This is to help with testing sites and counseling*

Community School Classroom Facilities Grant program with a $25M fund. *This can be accessed by "high-performing" schools*

Performance bonus payments for community schools and STEM schools linked to four-year graduation rates and performance bonus payments for community schools reaching targets for third grade reading proficiency scores.

Ms. Kiniyalocts reported that she has begun investigating the possibility of LCS conducting its own PH program. She has spoken with our new Educational Consultant, Deniece Cooper, of the Office of Community Schools about the viability of such an endeavor. Ms. Cooper is new to the position and needed to explore further on her end. Ms. Cooper said that LCS would need to make sure that the sponsor, CPS, approves this. This would mean that LCS would need to make addendums to the contract or create a new contract.

**Election of Officers and New Board Members**

Kent Friel, Bob Halonen and Kevin McDonnell are terming off the board. This is their last meeting as Board members.

Mr. Friel has been very instrumental in keeping LCS at the lead by his knowledge of leading edge educational practices. He has given the board and the school leadership his energy and enthusiasm for educating those who seem lost. He facilitated every board meeting with his optimism.

Mr. McDonnell was always realistic with the budget. He would read the numbers and interpret the meaning of those numbers. His tenacity and creative enthusiasm for correcting our fiscal course (on many occasions) resulted in our ability to stay fiscally sound. He also facilitated the development of our mission statement.

Bob Halonen helped us meander through the economic collapse of 2008 and prepared us for the unintended consequences of the ARRA. (Lagging Indicators).

LCS Board of Directors’ Slate.

* School Board Members
  + Approval of new Board Chair
  + David Greenfield
  + Approval of new board members
  + Gloria Samuel
  + Susan Frankel
  + Louise Gomer Bangel
  + Confirmation of 2nd term.
  + Carolyn Campbell
  + David Greenfield
  + Chris Harris
  + Allison Kahn
  + Dan Pfau
  + Nancy Shepardson
  + Confirmation of 3rd term
  + Fran Unger (completing 2nd term)

Kevin McDonnell moved and Chris Harris seconded the motion to elect, by acclamation, the slate of board of directors. The motion passed.

Daniel disseminated “roles of a community board” to assist new board members and for review of ongoing board members.

**Updates Since Last Board Meeting**.

**School Security Plan:** The school security plan was submitted in August 2014 well before the January 1, 2015 deadline. It was one of the first submitted and was one of the first to be audited. We met all the guidelines of the requirements. They decided to add new requirements and mandated that the new plans be submitted before July 1, 2015. The change that affected our plan was the addition of dates to the signature page. It will take a few weeks before I can get all the people to sign again and add the date.

**Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)** They are asking for very detailed information on all students and teachers. From the number of hours they attend classes, the types of classes they are taking, the teachers who are teaching the classes, the pass/fail rate, discipline types, etc…… Ms. Veite is doing a great job in getting the data collected and submitted.

**Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP):** Submitted and approved. We are to receive $91,151 in Title funds.

**Graduation:** We had 3 graduates in 2015. 4 differed. The main reason that students differed graduation is that they did not want to leave the school. This is their safety net.

**Transportation:** We currently use Metro Bus Passes and Bus Fare for the majority of our students. We spend about 6, 000 per year for 49 FTE. We use Paul’s Bus Service and Towne Taxi for door to door transportation for youth that have an IEP for ED and are unable to maintain their behaviors on the regular Metro Bus Service. This was used for 9 FTE ED students. LCS spent a total of $86,000 for the door to door service. LCS receives a total of $18,600 per FTE ED student. Thus we would need 4.62 FTE to break even. Nine FTE ED students brought us $167,000.

It is clear that transportation resulted in a net increase in FTE Special Education students. These are students who would not have been able to attend LCS due to transportation and would have dropped out. If LCS were to do these ourselves, we would have the benefit of having drivers who are trained in dealing with special education students. We would also have more flexibility in determining the routes. However, we do not have the infrastructure or the expertise in providing school transportation and this could cause a disruption in the school environment.

Mr. Trujillo will meet with Ms. Kiniyalocts and Ms. Oakman to flesh out the details.

**New for Next School Year**

**Computer Lab:** The school has purchased another 30 laptop computers to use in the computer lab and the classrooms. The computer lab will be rearranged to look more like a “coffee house”. Students’ biggest suggestion was to make the lab more comfortable.

**Explore the integration of vocational programming.** The teachers feel that students would benefit from more vocational type instruction. They believe that this will help them prepare for entry level jobs that would lead to promotions, meaningful employment and post-secondary success. Mr. Trujillo and Ms. Veite and the teachers will explore the possibilities and develop a plan for program modification. This would require a change in the contract with CPS.

**Future Board Meetings**

October 26, 20156:00pm – 7:30pm 401 McMillan

December 14, 2015 6:00pm – 7:30pm 401 McMillan

February 15, 2016 6:00pm – 7:30pm 401 Mc Millan

April 18, 2016 6:00pm – 7:30pm 401 McMillan

June 20, 2016 6:00pm – 7:30pm **SCHOOL**

August 15, 2016 6:00pm – 7:30pm 401 McMillan