**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 – August 15, 2016**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Bob Mecum, who was subbing for Board Chair, Dr. David Greenfield, on August 15, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Lighthouse Youth Services, 401 E. McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45206.

Board Members Present: Carolyn Campbell, Fran Unger, Louise Gomer Bangel, Nancy Shepardson, and Garien Gatewood

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

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**.

Bob Mecum welcomed all board members, staff, and guests and reviewed minutes from June 20, 2016. Fran Unger moved and Nancy Shepardson seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer, Nicki Hagler, presented the Board members with copies of June and July’s financials (Attached). The net assets are holding steady. June’s financials ended in a $3,000 surplus. July’s financials indicate an $11,000 surplus.

Investment back into the school will be a priority for FY 2017. The school is expected to be at breakeven with the student census at 61 Full time equivalents, which reflects FY 16’s budget as well. Nicki Hagler reminded us that the Balance Sheet throughout the year will be disproportionate due to SERS and PERS being reflected.

Ms. Gomer Bangel moved and Ms. Campbell seconded a motion to approve the financial report for June and July and the FY 2017 budget. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Student Census Report:**

Student enrollment was budgeted for 61 FTEs this school year. Currently it is stating 59.41, but is steadily climbing. Enrollments appear to be on target for this school year.

**OPDE Requirements for Charter School Sponsors and Drop out Recovery and Prevention:**

Audit to meet standards for measuring sponsor compliance with applicable laws and rules for this school year was completed on time despite the short time frame that was given. Moving forward, ODE will need to assure that the audit notice goes through JCARR. An advocacy letter was sent out to request reconsideration of the proposed rule. Daniel provided testimony on behalf of LCS in conjunction with 12 other charter schools regarding ODE’s proposed changes. Despite hearing these concerns, ODE decided to move forward with the rules.

A few compliance concerns surrounding Sunshine law renewals, background checks, and certifications will likely occur. Additional oversight to monitor these will be put in place to prevent this moving forward.

Daniel reviewed the dropout and recovery school definition and where LCS falls. If ODE changes the definition of majority from “greater than 50%” to “greater than 75%” we would need to make changes in the student population we serve. This means that we would not meet the community needs for youth that are in foster care. Options include advocacy to have the age of qualification be reduced from 16yrs of age to 14 yrs of age. This is on the state’s advocate’s radar. Both groups are trying to meet somewhere in the middle to meet all needs.

Daniel reviewed the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma treatment that occurs to assist youth increasing functioning. When youth make progress, they are also transitioning schools. Garien Gatefield indicated that he may be able to assist with advocacy efforts through the Children’s Law Center (CLC). Ohio coalition for quality education is another advocacy group.

**Teacher Positions:**

LCS has 3 open positions: math teacher and physical education teacher and an intervention specialist. The new position of social worker was filled by Heidi Palmer at a salary of $38,000. Ms. Gomer Bangle, moved and Dr. Unger seconded the motion.

**Policy Approvals:**

Reviewed amendments to several policies:

* Anti-Harassment, Anti Intimidation, anti-bullying and anti-dating
* Transportation paragraph B
* Child Find
* Gifted Students
* Free Appropriate Public Education (FABE)
* Peanut and other food allergies
* Behavioral Interventions
* Suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities
* Expulsion of college credit plus students
* Career Advising
* Mandatory Admissions
* Post-secondary credit
* Mandatory Admission
* School Monitoring Policy
* Lighthouse Community school video security cameras
	+ Physical limitations on the camera’s where it loops every 18 hours. Discussion of whether or not we need to extend this time to 72 hours.
	+ Most schools do a 24 hour loop and save it for a few days
	+ It would require a change in the software versus the hardware.
	+ Reviewed the benefits and barriers.
	+ Will revisit policy after we look into this further
* State assessment security procedures
* Student Hazing
* School Records Retention Schedule
* Procurement Standards

Carolyn Campbell moved and Louise Gomer Bangel seconded a motion to approve the reviewed policies.

**Volunteers:**

Daniel reviewed volunteers and projects/events that have occurred. Steve Rock, GE volunteers, and LYS volunteers recruited by the volunteer coordinator for onetime events. Mr. Digiorno is tutoring in math. Board Members assisting and allowing for the mission to continue.

Daniel reminded Board Members and staff of the need to attend the Sunshine training yearly.

**Updates since last Board meeting:**

No updates.

**School Board Meetings dates for 2016/2017**

Meetings will continue on the 3rd Monday of every other month and Lighthouse Youth Services at 401 E. McMillan, 45206 from 6pm-7:30pm

October 17, 2016

December 19, 2016

February 20, 2017

April 17, 2017

June 19, 2017

**Open Discussion:**

Discussion of changes in funding for Ohio and for them to hear voices of the people.

ODE is concerned about on-line schools that could indirectly affect other schools, as well.

An option to protect LCS would be to become a non-public, private, charter school. The Board agreed that this is not a discussion that needs to occur at this time.

Bob Mecum moved and Louise Gomer Bangel seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Shannon Kiniyalocts and Daniel Trujillo