**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 – October 26, 2015**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair, Dr. David Greenfield, on October 26, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Lighthouse Youth Services, 401 E. McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45206.

Board Members Present: Chris Harris, Gloria Samuel, Dr. David Greenfield, Nancy Shepardson, Carolyn Campbell, Susan Frankel, Louise Gomer Bangel, and Dr. 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 (Attached). The school’s financial position improved by $7,361. The ending financial position was $513,300 compared with $505,939 at the end of August 2015. The unrestricted cash balance decreased in September (from $110,470 to $107,889). This is primarily due to the delay in payment from CPS. However, overall the school is currently ahead of budget due to less expenditures.

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

Ms. Hagler, presented the Five Year Forecast to the Board for review. The five-year plan takes into account new student enrollment, new staffing and other anticipated expenses (Attached) . Most line item expenses are fixed and will increase by 3% each year. The only major variable line item expense is salaries, since this will fluctuate depending on the amount of staff turnover and lag time in hiring their replacement. The revenues can change drastically from year to year because they are based on enrollment.

Ms. Harris moved and Ms. Gomer Bangel seconded a motion to approve the Five Year Forecast for October 30, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

**Bootsy Collins Foundation- 1st Loving Acts of Kindness Gala**

Lighthouse Community School was recognized with the Acts of Lovingkindness Award. Latasha Youngblood, our School Support Specialist was also honored for her work with young women. Patti Collins has worked with our young women and talk about self-esteem, empowering women. The Gala was held at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse. Ms. Shepardson moved and Ms. Campbell seconded a motion to reimburse the School Administrator, Daniel Trujillo, $1,030.45 for the cost of sponsoring a table at the event. The motion passed unanimously.

**Related Party Questionnaire**

Mr. Trujillo informed the board that they should have received a “Related Party Questionnaire” via email. (Attached). They should fill this out and fax to Kimberly J. Downey at (877) 252-0113 or scan and email to kjdowney@ohioauditor.gov.

**Student Census:**

As predicted, most parents or guardians did not begin to fill out the enrollment packets until the end of July. This year we were better prepared. Principal Elissa Veite and staff were able to enroll students effectively and efficiently. Enrollment was smoother than last year. We had 68.82 FTE students enrolled in September. This is well above the projected 59 FTE for FY 16.

**ODE Updates:**

**HB 2:** House Bill 2 is known as the Charter School Reform Bill. The bill is an attempt to make the operation of charter schools more transparent, ensure that operators and sponsors do not profit unreasonable contracts and that individuals do not commit fraud. (Full HB 2 analysis is attached). The following are key mandates in HB2:

**Sponsors:**

* Tightens the law around "sponsor hopping" and ensures there is a public hearing held in front of the State Board of Education (SBOE).
* Sponsors with an overall "Exemplary" rating for at least two consecutive years will be able to take advantage of several incentives outlined in the bill, while penalties would be imposed for those rated "Ineffective." Those rated "Poor" will have their sponsorship authority revoked.
* Sponsors will be required to annually report the amount and type of expenditures made in providing oversight and assistance. The report will be a factor in evaluating a sponsor.
* Sponsors cannot sell goods or services to a school it oversees unless that school is sponsored by a school district or university and the service is provided on a nonprofit basis.

**Operators**:

* Requires ODE, by November 15, 2016, to develop and publish an annual performance report for all operators of community schools in the state. Each report must be published by November 15 each year, and the law specifies that the report of the performance is based on the performance of the community schools for the previous year and requires the report to be made available on ODE's website.
* Requires a management company that receives more than 20 percent of the gross annual revenues of a community school to provide a detailed accounting, including the nature and costs of the goods and services it provides to the school.
* Requires that each new or renewed contract between the governing authority of a community school and an operator to contain certain criteria.

**Governing Boards:**

* Board members' compensation was limited to $125 (current law is $425). The annual compensation limit of $5,000 remains and it also ensures conversion community school board members are paid within this limit.
* Requires board members to undergo a criminal record check as well as file a disclosure statement setting forth any potential conflicts of interest. Also, requires board members, school leaders and any administrative staff of a community school to be annually trained on open records and public meetings law.
* Requires each community school to post on the school's website the name of each member of the school's governing authority. Also, requires each community school to provide, upon request, the name and address of each governing authority member to the school's sponsor and ODE.
* Specifies that the governing authority is the sole entity responsible for the adoption of the budget, but the governing authority must adopt the budget with the assistance of the school's designated fiscal officer.
* \*\*OAPCS' Government Affairs team effectively lobbied to have a provision removed that would ultimately have made board members personally liable in a lawsuit\*\*

**Additional Measures:**

* Added a provision in the bill that stipulates if any management company buys school property with public tax payer funds that property becomes the sole property owned by the school. This measure was a response by the Legislature to the recent Ohio Supreme Court ruling in the White Hat case.
* Requires ODE to conduct a study to evaluate the validity and usefulness of using the "Similar Students Measure," created by the California Charter Schools Association, to calculate student academic progress for each public school.
* Permits, in lieu of the bond or cash payment guarantee required under current law to be paid by a community school for the cost of audits conducted by the Auditor of State, a community school sponsor or operator that has a contract with the school to provide a written guarantee of payment that obligates the sponsor or operator to pay the costs of those audits up to the amount of $50,000.

**Testing**

We currently have 33 students that need to pass one or more parts of the OGT test. Today was the first day of fall testing…in the past we would have early dismissal for all students after lunch. However, because we now have more students who are in a different track for testing, we decided to try out a modified schedule for all students this year, instead of dismissing them early.

PARRC tests are no longer being administered in Ohio. Instead ODE has decided to go with AIR, the vendor that provided our social studies and science tests last year. This is an online testing for 1st year 10th graders, 9th graders, and all middle school students, that take place in the spring. The tests are shorter and there are less sessions. We had no IT issues administering the test last year. There will be a 3 week window to complete the testing. This is good because it gives us some flexibility with students. OGT tests will also be given again in the spring.

**Transportation**

Ms. Elissa reported that we had between 20-30 students riding the metro from August 17th-September 11th. We received calls from community members about student behavior on bus. The mayor’s office called the School Administrator and according to one of the detail officers, one of the vice-presidents of 5th 3rd bank talked to District 2 about the problems on the bus. Community Council also received complaints. Since the beginning of the school year, 7 students have been suspended from use of the Metro by our detail officer; there have been at least 9 separate instances that we’re aware of.

In response Ms. Elissa started walking up to the bus stop and handing out bus-fare on the bus. On November 16th, we will have a yellow bus pick up all students who currently ride the Metro, and drop them off at government square. From there, they will get on separate buses to their homes. This should help mitigate problems here in Madisonville, especially for Metro riders those who work for 5th 3rd. We currently have an officer detail after school to walk students to the bus stop, however, we’ve put in the request to change the officer detail as of November 16th to riding the yellow bus downtown with students and back to the school. So far, one person has backed out of the detail and we’re waiting to hear back from the others.

We currently have 15 students on yellow bus service. The bus drive was having some issues with student’s behaviors. They were being suspended from yellow bus by the bus company. Ms. Elissa spoke with the bus company. It was agreed that LCS would provide a Wrap worker on the bus to monitor behavior and help de-escalate students. This seems to have helped to reduce problem behaviors on the yellow bus.

 **Updates since last meeting.**

Ms. Elissa reported on two GE sponsored events. The canoe trip was a success. Students were able to master the skills necessary for navigating the Little Miami River. After canoeing, the students had a wonderful grill out with great food and games. The second event was a leadership and team building field trip to Camp Joy. The students were really pushed to excel outside of their comfort zone.

Ms. Elissa reported on the 2nd annual Greens Cook-Off. Ms. Youngblood coordinated the event again this year. We had a few more participants this year than last year. The students and staff did a wonderful job in engaging the community and parents.

The Fall Dance was celebrated on Friday October 23, 2015. This year the theme was “create your own candy”. The students had pizza and wings along with their candy. (Yum!) They also danced to the music of “Nate the Great”. They all had a great time.

**Future Board Meetings**

 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