**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 – December14, 2015**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by Board Chair, Dr. David Greenfield, on December 14, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Lighthouse Youth Services, 401 E. McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45206.

Board Members Present: Dr. David Greenfield, Nancy Shepardson, Carolyn Campbell, Louise Gomer Bangel, Dr. Fran Unger, and Allison Kahn

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

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**.

David Greenfield welcomed all board members, staff, and guests.

Ms. Shepardson moved and Ms. Campbell seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer, Nicki Hagler, presented the Board members with copies of October and November’s financials (Attached). The unrestricted cash balance decreased by $11.00 in November (from $209,108 to $209,097). Even though there was a decrease in unrestricted cash, there was an increase in total cash, $2,162. We are currently behind budget due to purchase of computers for staff and transportation costs.

Ms. Shepardson moved and Ms. Bangel seconded a motion to approve the financial report for October and November. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Hagler, presented information surrounding the changes to the state pension liability due to new GASB 68 accounting standards, occurring nationwide. Lighthouse Community School will have a pension liability of approximately $2,000,000.00. This will reflect poorly on the balance sheet. At the January audit, further explanation will be sought regarding total liability of this change.

**Student Census:**

As of November, 62.43 FTE students are enrolled. Thirty eight of the students are ED, 3 are LD and 19 are Regular Ed. There were 30 individual education plans completed in October. This is an amazing feat given all that goes into this process which includes, consent, testing, and meeting with all involved parties.

**Staffing Changes:**

Teddy Matthews is no longer employed as the Behavioral Health Specialist. Greg Mason is an applicant for this position with a proposed start date of 1/4/15.

Dr. Unger moved and Ms. Campbell seconded a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Mason and annual salary of $40.010.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Modification to the School Calendar and Schedule:**

Lighthouse Community School’s teachers and staff have proposed modifications to the current school calendar and schedule due to several barriers, which include:

* Students are coming from all areas of the community and many have to utilize public transportation, that requires several hours on the bus
* Some students are parents and finding reliable childcare in conjunction with current school hours, can be burdensome
* Tardiness to school due to the early start

Several suggestions from staff were reviewed, such as shortening the school day and lengthening the year; several mini breaks throughout the school year versus an entire summer off; Identifying childcare options for parents; Review of possible financial, staff satisfaction and enrollment repercussions associated with these changes.

**Drop-out Recovery School Consortium:**

There are 38 district sponsored drop out recovery charter schools. The board members reviewed the implications that HB2 could have on Lighthouse Community School and Cincinnati Public Schools as their sponsor. The board was asked to have LCS join a coalition that will promote policy and understanding, obtain further funding, increase student success, and ensure legal compliance for district sponsored drop out recovery schools.

Ms. Campbell moved and Ms. Bangel seconded a motion to approve the joining of this coalition at a membership rate of &4,000 to $8,000 per year. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Reminder**

**Mr. Trujillo reminded the Board to submit their “Related Party Questionnaires” to the Auditor. He also reminded the Board that the school would need to have their background checks on file the school. He will inform the board about the process they would follow in order to ensure that all background checks were up to date. Also as part of HB 2, all board members must attend a Public Records training yearly. Mr. Trujillo will send board members the link to the Attorney General’s on-line training.**

**Transportation:**

Ms. Elissa reported that a second yellow bus was implemented on 11/18/15 for those students who previously rode the Metro. After school, these students take this yellow bus to Government Square for them to transfer onto the appropriate Metro bus. There have been no negative reports from the community or students, as this option has decreased the amount of time that a student is on the bus. A Cincinnati Police Officer has recognized that Lighthouse Community School has gone over and above to resolve a city wide problem.

**Updates since last meeting:**

Partial Hospitalization is tabled at this time due to barriers that arose in planning efforts. The alternative school housed at the youth crisis center has been more successful recently than in years past due to alignment of both a therapeutic environment in conjunction with credit recovery. Students in this program are very engaged.

Ms. Elissa reported on three volunteers at Lighthouse Community School that are truly making a difference.

* Richard DiGiorno is assisting with math primarily. He has established a good rapport with both students and staff. Staff see him as a positive influence and someone who is willing to go the extra mile.
* Ann Aborgast is working with the Career Specialist. She too is very engaged with the students as she eats lunch with them daily. Anne also made a donation to LCS for youth to attend prom.
* Steve Warren is a former GE employee and has been donating funds that GE matches. This funding will be directly applied to the needs of teachers within the classroom.

Parent/Teacher conferences were held on 11/25/15 and were very successful with twenty parents/guardians attending.

Upcoming events include:

* A field trip the Cincinnati Art Museum will occur with Dr. Greenfield on 12/15/15. Students look forward to this annual trip that has been occurring over the past three years.
* GE Holiday Party is Friday 12/18/15. This event includes fun and meaningful activities. This year students will be making personal hygiene packages to donate to St. Paul’s in Madisonville.

Bob Mecum commented on the quality of staff that are employed by Lighthouse Community School as they are recognized as being idealistic, caring, bright, and engaged.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**Future Board Meetings**

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