**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 – December 19, 2016**

A board meeting of the Lighthouse Community School Board was called to order by David Greenfield, Board Chair, December 19, 2016 at 6:00pm at Lighthouse Youth Services, 401 E. McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45206.

Board Members Present: David Greenfield, Carolyn Campbell, Fran Unger, Louise Gomer Bangel, Nancy Shepardson, Garien Gatewood, Chris Harris, Tatianna Rozhnova, and Kent Friel

Staff: Nicki Hagler, Daniel Trujillo and Paul Haffner

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**.

David Greenfield welcomed all board members and staff. Board members and staff reviewed the minutes from October 24, 2016. Chris Harris moved and Louise Gomer Bangle seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Nicki Hagler presented the Board members with copies of October and November financials (Attached).

The budget spreadsheet shows the first 1/3rd of fiscal year reporting on a cash accrual. The second 2/3rd budget is a projection. The November column shows a loss of $130,000. This is a trueing up of LYS expenses. If you were to look at the budget in an accrual budget, there would be no loss showing for November. The final FY17 projected budget predicts a $7,000 positive balance. However, the budget is time sensitive and there are other variables that may impact the final outcome. For instance, our budget is based on 61 FTE students, and we had 62.11 students in for the month of November

The unrestricted cash balance decreased in November (from $319,436 to $189,520). This is primarily due to the decrease in Special Ed funding for the month of November along with the ODE’s delayed approval of the FY17 CCIP application.

Net assets ($677,084) decreased by $40,000 this month primarily due to expiration of Student IEP’s and investment losses. Once all IEP’s have been entered, the assets should increase. Total cash balance is $606,047.

The FY 16 Audit is currently being conducted by the state auditor.

A copy of the IRS Form 990 is due on February 17, 2017. The Form 990 was presented to the board for review and approval.

Nancy Shepardson moved and Carolyn Campbell seconded a motion to approve the financial report for November, FY 17, and the Form 990. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Census Report:**

Student enrollment was budgeted for 61 FTEs this school year. November’s enrollment indicates 62.11 FTEs . There were 37.48 Cat 3, 4.54 Cat 2 and 20.09 Regular Ed. students. These numbers are very close to the goals of 38 Cat 3, 5 Cat 2 and 18 Regular Ed. students.

**Cincinnati Public School Sponsor Rating Update**

Daniel Trujillo updated the Board on CPS sponsor rating. CPS has filed for an appeal. The appeal date is set for January 16, 2017. In the meantime, the attorney for CPS, Ashley Addo, will be sending a letter to ODE stating the reasons why CPS should get a higher Sponsor Rating. Should ODE agree with the rationale for the higher rating, CPS will not have to attend the appeal. If ODE does not agree to upgrade the rating, then CPS will go forward with the appeal. Daniel will most likely be in attendance for the appeal.

It is also time for the LCS to apply for the CPS sponsorship renewal. Daniel will contact Dr. Lofton about the new process.

Daniel has been contacted by Dave Cash at St. Aloysius about taking over CPS’s sponsorship. Daniel told him that we would look into them as a sponsor in the event that CPS loses its ability to sponsor.

**Legislative Update.**

During the Lame Duck sessions, there were no provisions to correct any of the mishaps that occurred during the implementation of H.B.2. However, there were a few pieces of legislation that were introduced that will have a slight impact on LCS. The primary school related laws include the “Lindsay’s law” which is to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes. We will update our policy as necessary.

We will also have a change in the truancy law. Most of the language is changing the definition of “Habitually” truant and “Chronically” truant from days absent to hours absent. The law also requires schools with 10% or greater truancy to develop absence-intervention plans in an attempt to avoid truancy charges. Schools are also prohibited from suspending or expelling students for truancy.

Also new for 2017, employers can no longer forbid workers from keeping a gun locked in their own vehicle while parked on company property. This law also gives active military members permission to carry a concealed gun without a permit in Ohio. This will require us to review the law if passed and review our policy.

**Policy Approvals:**

Due to the level of disciplinary issues that arise during transportation of students, Daniel presented the board with an updated Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges policy. A line was also added to the Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities policy. \_\_\_\_\_ moved and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seconded a motion to approve the new updated policies. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Transportation**

Daniel discussed the need into providing its own student transportation. LCS is having difficulty finding yellow bus service for students because of their disruptive behaviors. We have poor service, but can’t change the service due to no other bus company willing to contract with LCS. Daniel asked if the board would like to help him explore transportation options. He will send an invite for the end of January.

**Garden Program**

G.E. Aviation would like LCS to purchase a ’20 X ’20 greenhouse for the property on Chandler on Ward. They have allotted $3900 for this. The green house will be purchase through New Life Properties. This will allow teachers to develop an interdisciplinary project based learning program where students can develop soft skills in addition to academic knowledge.

**Updates since last Board Meeting**

Dan Pfau has resigned from the LCS Board. The board is asking Kent Friel to take Dan’s place. Garien Gatewood is also leaving the board as he is moving to Chicago(?).

The Fall Dance was a huge success. The event was coordinated by Student Council. Both Ashley Gallaher and LaTasha Youngblood worked with the students walking them through the quality improvement cycle. The Urban Agriculture program hosted the 3rd Annual Grandma’s Greens Cook-Off. Ms. Mertle our community neighbor won 1st place for the second year in a row. Finally, GE spent Friday 16th with students at the 12th annual holiday party. Along with making Ornaments, Christmas Cards, Cookies and Santa Hats, the students collected enough dry goods to fill 37 laundry baskets with items for the seniors at St. Paul’s senior living apartments in Price Hill.

**Open Discussion:**

Dr. Greenfield asked the board if the April board meeting could be moved from April 17, 2017 to April 24, 2017 due to a scheduling conflict. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ motioned and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_seconded a motion to change the date as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meetings:

February 20, 2017

**April 24, 2017 this is a new date.**

June 19, 2017

Dr. David Greenfield moved and Garien Gatewood seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Shannon Kiniyalocts and Daniel Trujillo