



Lake Norman Charter Board Meeting Minutes

Open Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2014

Meeting Called to Order by Bill Farber at 6:08 PM at Board Governance Meeting

Attending: Bill Farber – Board Chair, James Cuttino – Secretary, Eddie Bethea, Laurie Fabian, Cynthia Bush, Kyle Burkey, Kevin Lambert, Michael Putman, Shannon Stein - Managing Director

Governance

The Board listened to and discussed BoardWiser Program: “Three Things the Board Should Evaluate Every Year.” Sara Lay also shared with the Board the current communications plan and the channels that she has been utilizing to reach families in hopes of getting feedback.

General Meeting

General meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm following governance training.

- I. *Motion to approve Minutes by Fabian, seconded by Bethea, motion passed*
- II. Support Organization
 - A. PTO: Ordering for the final lunch cycle opened this week. PTO Hospitality has been busy with getting ready for Staff Appreciation Week (March 10th – 14th).
 - B. Athletic Boosters: Winter sports season has wrapped up. The boys’ basketball team made it to the third round of playoffs and the girls made it to the second round. LNC had two State Champions in diving. LNC is now in spring sports, and the Athletic Board is getting ready to plan for the 2014-2015 school year.
- III. Public Comments – no public comments
- IV. Managing Director’s Report
 - A. Cara Matocha introduced the board to Joy Fleet who recently won a Silver Key from the Scholastic Art organization. It has been a competition since 1923 and there are 18 counties that participate, and 2100 works of art submitted. Joy’s art was on display at the Mint Museum, and she received a certificate of excellence for this. Scholastics also give out Gold Keys, which went to Jessie Harris. Anyone who gets a Gold Key will go on to the national level. Jessie’s knife dress won the Gold Key Award. On March 17th, LNC will find out how she scored at the national level. Jessie also received a Silver Key for her entire portfolio and for one of her portraits in the portfolio. It won the Governance Award. Shannon commended the entire art department.
 - B. Two Fridays ago Dr. Allan and Dr. Lewis came to LNC to do a cultural assessment. They are currently putting together a report that will be shared with the Cross-Cultural Committee. Dr. Lewis complimented LNC, saying that, “there is a lot of

learning going on around here.”

- C. Casino Night is ready to go! Shannon commended Mrs. Lay and parents who invested time for the Casino Night. The event is sold out and there is a waiting list.
- D. On March 11 and March 13, Shannon will be holding a focus group for parents about homework. The meeting will be a mix of listening and educating the parents. The alumni panel said they were well prepared for college and were able to work on a regimented schedule due to their experience at LNC.
- E. Shannon directed the Board to an email about Sravya’s achievement as a recipient of the Daughters of the Revolution Scholarship from the DAR Scholarship Committee. They highlighted the qualities of an LN Charter student and shared how they were impressed by Sravya’s character.
- F. Shannon highlighted a new article in the Charlotte Observer about changing the testing standards system by making it easier for students to pass the tests, especially the third grade test.

V. Finance Update

- A. Budgeting is in full swing. As usual, Harrella will start off with the most important, and she should have the proposed budget by mid-April to give to the finance committee for approval. Upon approval, she will present to the Board. The big-ticket items for next year are the technology upgrades and infrastructure, which total about \$150,000.
- B. Robert Tripp from Merrick will give us a proposal for the new phase of construction which includes the roadways.
- C. Bidding out benefits package now. Harrella reached out the parent community, but a lot of parents are not in the benefits part of insurance. LNC is looking at MetLife or Guardian. Assurant’s proposed numbers were not good; not big players for companies our size. The biggest premium that went down is dental. LNC can save a teacher’s salary with the package that is being looked at now.

VI. Old Business

- A. Strategic Planning Committees
 - 1. Cross-Cultural – waiting on results
 - 2. Partnership – Communications – Kudos was given to Mr. Lambert for the engineering panel. About 150 people were there to answer questions, and the committee did a great job of passing along some information. The students commented on how much they liked it. Dr. Cuttino and Mr. Hoffman will be giving behind the scenes tours of Siemen’s and UNC-Charlotte.
 - 3. College Counseling – They are cruising along. They launched the alumni survey and received 33 responses. They are working on developing a parent group to work on the scholarship piece, as well as trying to get to the juniors before they leave for the summer. The college fair is this Sunday. There are 4 students who signed up to ride the bus, 40 want to go to the Friday afternoon session, and 172 signed up for the fair. They are looking at adding

a new position to manage the scholarship and partnership, creating a database for these scholarships.

4. Technology - got our upgrade on the bandwidth, moving from a 50 MB/s circuit to 840 MB/s download speed, huge step in the right direction. Also bumped up the guest network and made other equipment upgrades. Already received the new iPads for next year, and will start loading these up over the summer. Apple is developing a new, streamlined process for fast track deployment.

VII. New Business

- A. Both College Counseling and Partnership Committees make a recommendation to hire a college support service person to provide individual service to students and families with internships, job shadows, site visits, and scholarships.

Mike Manahan suggests that we wait until we get the budget planning allotment in April before we decide on this-listed off a lot of items to budget for, do not know what we are going to get from the state.

Lambert makes a motion to include the College Support Service position in the proposed budget pending sufficient budget and Fabian seconds. Motion carries.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
James F. Cuttino