

Lincoln Leadership Academy Charter School

Board of Directors Meeting

July 16, 2020

Board Minutes

I. Call to Order: The Board Meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM by Harold Kurtz.

II. Roll Call: Present: Dr. Harold Kurtz, Dr. Barry Spriggs, Jimmy Torres, Ngozi Bell (Meloney Dosunmu excused).

Staff present: CEO Sandra Figueroa-Torres, Sis-Obed Torres Cordero, Director of Operations, Tom Taylor, Business Manager, Repice & Taylor

III. Opening Reflection: CEO Sandra Figueroa quoted Nelson Mandela: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph of it." Ngozi Bell: The spirit of justice has arrived and we must not allow it to be silenced in this season; it is not going to be silenced. Harold Kurtz: "solid plan, very impressed as a former school superintendent." Mrs. Figueroa Lincoln has a strong spirit of justice; our plan reflects that; we serve the most vulnerable; we must fight hard to protect our children and families.

It was acknowledged how Lincoln has succeeded in providing a strong, positive environment for students and staff during COVID pandemic; it's a matter of focus and perspective when we can see the goodness of life and transformation despite the challenges at hand.

Harold requested a moment of silence for the Lincoln student who recently passed and for the more than 93,000 Americans who have passed away due to COVID-19.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May 21, 2020, and June 18, 2020 minutes by Ngozi Barry was seconded by Jimmy Torres, unanimously.

V. Staff Reports: CEO Report:

Presentation of the proposed Safe School Opening Plan (a 3-Phase Plan presented to the Board. This plan proposes to open school in three phases; Virtual school, Hybrid and Full Return of all students. The overriding and

primary concern has been health, safety and welfare is primal; secondly, the continuity of education. Mrs. Figueroa reported she has followed the data on a daily basis; daily updates from PDE, Dept. of Health; a study of the mathematics of COVID and impact; days and day, hours and hours of research.

Our plan is based on this research, Zoom parent meetings and Zoom staff meetings. Our parents are extremely grateful that we plan to open virtually for the first Term (August 25, 2020 to October 9, 2020. Some parents expressed that we go virtual the entire year.

Staff equally grateful for the plan.

Ngozi Bell: Asked about other Terms 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Response: after every term, Lincoln will determine whether to go full open, hybrid or virtual. All available information will be reassessed. PDE, PA Department of Health and State regulations and CDC recommendations will be studied every step of the way.

Jimmy Torres: Do we the capacity to connect 100% with students? In March, we made sure that every student has access. Now, we will lend each child a Chromebook.

Barry Spriggs: Do we anticipate health issues regarding some staff members coming back? Yes, but plan our plan will include accommodations; some staff have new babies.

Question about PPE": We ordered PPE in March; still waiting to receive the order.

We ordered through own vendors and PDE vendors. Ngozi Bell to send some links she has.

Cyber Resolution: is temporary by PDE to allow schools to go cyber during COVID crisis.

We can seek to amend charter for future cyber if needed.

Director of Operations Report: The report was accepted without any questions.

Motion: To approve the Staff Reports and approve the Three (3) Phase Opening Plan by Barry Spriggs seconded by Ngozi Bell, passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

Expansion Project update: On May 4, Governor lifted the restrictions on building projects for school districts and the construction project started the same day. The Mohawk Construction company had secured all of the building permits and was ready to go. The land has been cleared and prepped. They are on site every day.

VII. Financial Report as submitted by Tom Taylor:

For the twelve months ending 06/30/2020, the school has a surplus of \$1,739,480 compared to a planned surplus of \$988,171 resulting in a favorable variance of \$751,309. Lower than planned revenue offset by lower than planned personnel costs and 21st century costs caused the variance.

Cash as of 6/30/2020 was \$5,697,439

Receivables were \$2,149,903.

Ngozi: Raised Question about the impact of COVID Impact. Tom responded that it is unknown at this time. We are working to determine since we have not received COVID grant funding yet.

Motion: To approve to approve the Financial Report as reported by Tom Taylor by Barry Spriggs and seconded by Jimmy Torres, passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business:

1. CEO (Superintendent) Figueroa announced to the Board that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) was requesting that School Boards pass a resolution “that ensures a minimum of 180 days of instruction, allowing for a minimum of 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level and 990 hours of instruction at the secondary level, employing any combination of in-person, virtual, and distance learning as the Superintendent seems appropriate to address the health and safety of students, faculty, and community, and the learning needs of students.” In doing so, it would mean that Lincoln Leadership Academy Charter School recognizes that the “COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency within the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code.”

Therefore, the following Resolution was read and presented to the Board for approval:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION – JULY 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the current outbreak of COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has determined that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an “emergency” within the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Public School Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors has determined that the risks COVID-19 presents to our students, faculty, and community requires an extraordinary response;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board finds and declares that the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency within the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

For the duration of said pandemic but in no event for any period exceeding four years, the Superintendent shall have the duty and the authority to develop a Health and Safety plan in a form and manner prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that ensures a minimum of 180 days of instruction, allowing for a minimum of 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level and 990 hours of instruction at the secondary level, employing any combination of in-person, virtual, and distance learning as the Superintendent seems appropriate to address the health and safety of students, faculty, and community, and the learning needs of students. Such instruction shall comply in full with the requirement of Chapter 4 of the regulations of the State Board of Education and with the curriculum standards published in accordance therewith.

Motion to approve above Resolution by Ngozi Bell, seconded by Barry Spriggs, passed unanimously.

The Resolution will appear for dissemination purposes at the end of the July 16, 2020 Board Minutes.

2. As discussed above, CEO Figueroa presented the 3 Phase Opening Plan, Health and Safety Plan and EITT Plan for approval. The overriding and primary concern has been health, safety and welfare is primal; secondly, the continuity of education. Mrs. Figueroa reported she has followed the data on a daily basis; daily updates from PDE, Dept. of Health; a study of the mathematics of COVID and impact; days and day, hours and hours of research.

Question: Regarding Continuous Evaluation; semester by semester. Term by term evaluations of the school year will take place term by term.

Presentation of School Health and Safety Plan and EITT Plan: CEO Figueroa presented Health and Safety Plan and EITT Plan as described above and as authorized by the above Resolution within the meaning of within the meaning of Section 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code.

Motion by Jimmy Torres, to approve the 3-phase School Opening Plan as discussed in the CEO's Staff Report, Health and Safety Plan and EITT Plan presented by CEO Figueroa was seconded by Barry Spriggs, passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the purchase of 2 School (safety-approved) vans: Would not require a CDL licensed driver. Motion to approve purchase 2 vans made by Ngozi Bell and seconded by Barry Spriggs passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of information regarding approval of new Board Member Fred Rooney: Motion to approve Fred Rooney as a new Board member by Jimmy Torres was seconded by Barry Spriggs, passed unanimously.

5. School Calendar: Motion to approve the Meeting Schedule of the Board of Trustees Meetings for the 2020-2021 school year by Jimmy Torres, seconded by Barry Spriggs, passed unanimously.

6. Motion to approve the submission of State Rent Reimbursement forms: Motion to approve the submission of Rent reimbursement forms by Barry Spriggs was seconded by Jimmy Torres passed unanimously.

IX. Personnel: Approximately 9 people were not renewed to return for the new school year. Lincoln continues to conduct interviews of candidates for the coming school year.

Mrs. Figueroa thanked the Board of its continued support, especially during these trying times.

XI. Public Comment: None.

XII. Adjournment: Harold Kurtz, adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Approved: August 20, 2020 School Board Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Motion to approve the above resolution by Ngozi Bell, and seconded by Barry Spriggs, passed unanimously.