

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 25, 2021 - 6:30 pm
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Via Teleconference

- A. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by Mr. Wiley.
- B. Prayer**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Approval of the General Meeting Agenda** - A motion was made by Pamela Stewart to approve the meeting agenda. This was seconded by Barbara McIntyre. The agenda was approved without opposition from the Board.
- E. Adoption of Previous Minutes** – Following a motion made by Pamela Stewart and seconded by Barbara McIntyre, the minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with the stated corrections.
- F. Roll Call**
 - a) Present Members**
 - i. Hollis Downs
 - ii. Clara Lewis
 - iii. Barbara McIntyre
 - iv. Robert Wiley
 - v. Pamela Stewart
 - vi. Ed Watley
 - vii. Elizabeth Smith
 - b) Absent Members**
 - i. Eddie Robinson III
 - ii. Don Tatum
- G. Lincoln Prep “Showcase”** –
 - a)** Francheska Jones, the Dual Enrollment Coordinator, discussed the benefits of the Early College Academy. She stated that it is a rewarding program, and she wishes that it had been available to her in school. Many students, even some in their junior year, are taking advantage of it. The juniors enrolled in the Academy will graduate in one year with an associate degree. The students are taking developmental courses to prepare them for when they attend college. There are several other benefits to the Early College Academy, including: introducing students to some of the technology available on the college campuses, teaching the students to balance time and scheduling. Mr. Ford added that some 10th grade students are also being groomed for the Early College Academy. Jaiden Hunter, Austin Jackson, and Ashton Jackson, Early College Academy students, were introduced. Mr. Ford stated that all 3 students have completed their Freshman college year and are in the second semester of their Sophomore year. Jaiden started the Academy in 2019 and will graduate in May of this year with his associate degree. He reports that he is currently making all A's and B's and thanks Lincoln Prep for giving him the opportunity and showing him that he is bright enough to participate.

Austin stated that the Academy is a good opportunity. It is a blessing to the students and looks very good on a transcript. He stated that he enjoys his classes very much and is looking forward to the future. Ashton expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be in the Early College Academy. He called it a great and humbling experience. He stated that he tends to go overboard with his scheduling, but the Academy has taught him to balance his schedule, so he does not get overwhelmed. This has helped him tremendously, and he is currently making all A's. The Board members expressed how proud they are of each student. Mr. Ford added that all 3 of these students are local, from Grambling. He reported that some students have dropped out of the program for various reasons, but most will graduate in May. Some even plan to take college courses during the summer to finish earlier. Mr. Downs inquired about the net savings for students participating in the Early College Academy, as it seems far more economical than paying for it at the University. Mr. Ford stated that the Early College Academy can save an average of about \$10,000 per year on undergrad. If the student graduates and qualifies for TOPS, they could finish with TOPS and use the remaining years to complete a master's level degree, which could potentially save up to \$50,000. Kaila Armstrong discussed her experience with the Academy. She stated that the teachers are helpful, especially with contacting the professors with questions/concerns. Mr. Ford stated that the Academy is set up as a co-teaching model, with a high school and college level teacher collaborating in each subject. Jeyvian Tatum, the grandson of Board Member, Don Tatum, stated that the Early College Academy is the greatest program to be in. Mr. Ford added that, contingent on COVID and related guidelines, Lincoln Prep plans to have the Chancellor of Southern University serve as the commencement speaker at graduation. Lincoln Prep students may have the opportunity to go to Southern University for graduation, again contingent on COVID guidelines.

H. Public Comments – Although the meeting was open to the public, no comments were made.

I. Report of the Executive Director – SEE PDF.

- a)** October 1 count was 575, and there are currently 566 students enrolled. The numbers for the February count are due in 1.5 weeks. Mr. Ford is looking forward to next year's enrollment period, which will be March 15th - April 16th. This will be the first traditional enrollment period, as the previous years were affected by the court order, then the COVID pandemic. The target enrollment for next year is 648.
- b)** Kindergarten through 4th grade students remain at New Living Word. Some of the 5th – 12th grade students participate virtually only, and some are doing a hybrid schedule. The hybrid schedule is as follows: 5th – 8th grade students are in person on Tuesday and Thursday while 9th – 12th students are in person on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. All virtual classes are live, and students are watching and participating from home in real time. The increased student count means increased meal counts. The students coming to campus are given breakfast and lunch to take home for the following day (virtual days). Lincoln Prep is working towards providing dinner and weekend meals. Mr. Ford added that Lincoln Prep can provide meals to all children in the community, and this is refunded by the State. Mr. Downs added that most of the Lincoln Parish community are considered at risk students, which means they qualify for free or reduced lunch. Mr. Ford stated that Lincoln Prep has a 100% multiplier this year. The number of directly

certified students are calculated and multiplied by 1.6. Lincoln Prep's number exceeds 100%, which affects meal reimbursement and federal funds. While there are several things that would deem a student directly certified, the most common is receiving SNAP benefits.

- c) The target date for the temporary campus to be opened is April 6th. This target date was set after the State Fire Marshal inspected and adjustments had to be made to the modular buildings. Fiber optic internet has been set up. 5th – 12th grade students are there for daily classes and after-school tutoring.
- d) Basketball season has started. 1 player tested positive for Covid, so all team activities ceased for 10 days, but they have begun practicing again. Competitions ceased for 14 days. The girls' team did not have to quarantine for Covid, but the other school asked to postpone both games since the boys' game was postponed.
- e) As discussed in the last meeting, Lincoln Builders has been selected as the construction partner for the permanent building. Teams are currently doing environmental testing, boring samples, and surveying. They plan to start moving dirt in April 2021. The plan is for staff to move in June 2022, with the first day of school planned for August 2022. Megan Kenley and Mr. Ford meet with the Bond team weekly to ensure that everything is on track and report that there are currently no concerns with the schedule or timeline.
- f) Income projections were given to the Bond team after getting final federal numbers with updates. The projections given were on the conservative side. The Board approved \$30 million and that has been approved by the Bond team. With annual payments for the 2021 Bonds Net Service, Lincoln Prep's net income still shows positive cash flow. According to the Bond analysis, a \$30,000 bond would yield about 1.5 million more than originally thought. Some of this is due to the annual financials. The minimum debt coverage ratio for the Bond commission is 1.15, but they look for at least 1.2. Lincoln Prep will start at 1.25 the first year and is projected to increase to 1.65. Board members were provided with a document showing this information in detail. Based on financial reports and the new max capacity on the bond, they would have approved \$39.5 million. After consideration, the team will continue with the previously discussed amount and consider the increased amount if needed. The Board was provided with a project delivery timeline that includes all details of the project from start to finish. This includes a milestone chart to reference and determine if the project is on track or ahead/behind schedule.
- g) Union Parish High school recently hosted a basketball game between Lincoln Prep and Homer. During this game, a fight broke out between a mother with her 3 children, another mother with 1 child and one other person. Steps are being taken to bar the other students from Lincoln Prep activities for 1 year. Since Lincoln Prep students were involved in this altercation, the Board will enter an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss. No questions or discussion from the Board will be permitted until entering the Executive Session.

J. New Business –

- a) Mr. Downs stated that the State Superintendent of Education recently released studies showing significant backtrack in student's reading levels. Mr. Ford stated that he would

look into this and get more information for the Board. He added that all 10th and 11th grade students have been put in an extended English course (creative writing). This teacher collaborates with the English teacher. The plan is to give two 50-minute blocks to ensure that they are where they need to be for standardized testing, college, ACT, etc. Lincoln Prep believes that combating this early on will help tremendously, so they have requested to add Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 in 2022. This will be determined during the Charter renewal that begins in July.

K. Reports

- a) **Financial** – Megan stated that great things are going on at LP. 47% has been collected for the General fund. There will be an adjustment for student enrollment, which should be finalized by March. The October 1 enrollment count was 575 and is currently at 564. The February 1 count will determine the final funding formula. When the budget was adopted, a conservative enrollment of 590 was projected and there will likely be about \$225k variation on the MFP. The budget has about \$175k-\$200k in vacancies as unfilled positions. Mr. Ford added that these positions were not filled due to the lower student count due to the pandemic. These positions will be filled as student count increases. Megan stated that a budget amendment will only be needed if the total revenue and expenses exceed 5% variation. Mr. Wiley asked if the difference will be taken from us. Megan stated that it is likely, but there are spaces in the budget to make up for that amount, as well as savings on the lease. Additional grant funding of about \$195k was given when Title 1 and Special Education numbers were recalculated. Mr. Ford added that, with federal funds, there is really no way to know those calculations as a projected number is given at the beginning of the year and vary from year to year. Megan plans to look at funds this year to see where they will be the most useful for spending. Some things that should always be taken into consideration are carryover limits, maintenance for IDEA, Title 1, waiting for MFP, and 70% instructional requirement that must be maintained. With the Bond coming up, a certain amount must be maintained in the reserve once the Bond is issued. Quarter 1 funds have been received. Quarter 2 funds have been requested but take about a month to receive. The food service is increasing. General Administrative funds are at about \$67k of \$7million on the budget. There is about \$6,500 variation for audit fees, legal service fees regarding the land purchase, and central services (advertising for positions for personnel). There were no negative findings on the recent audit. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 reports have been submitted, and Lincoln Prep has been in constant contact with the Bond committee, Municipal Advisor, etc., to get the paperwork done. Mr. Watley inquired about Covid funding. Mr. Ford stated that all he has at this time are projections, but, based on what the State is receiving, about \$900,000 is expected to be received from all funds. The funds can be used for any purpose that the State school funds can be used for. The deadline to allocate the current funds are due in February. The upcoming funding may not be allocated until the current fund allocation is complete.
- b) **Alumni and Community Relations** – No report.
- c) **Transportation and Facilities Update** – No report.
- d) **Education** – No report.

L. Old Business

- a) **Relationship between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University** – A request was submitted through counsel to the court to allow Lincoln Prep to use the Assembly Center at GSU for basketball. The court order states that sports facilities could only be used to the extent that other schools are allowed. RHS is using the football field but since GSU is not allowing use of the Assembly Center, Lincoln Prep was denied. The transition from Alma J Brown to the high school cafeteria has been completed. Some equipment had to be replaced, but everything is going well. The new Cafeteria Manager has helped increase the quality and timeliness of food being received on campus.
- b) When converted to a Charter School, all property that belonged to the previous school had to be turned over to the Charter School. The School Board came in years ago and stated that all property belonging to GSU had to remain at GSU. After working with them, Lincoln Prep has entered into a contract with the State to purchase these items for 10 cents on the dollar. This means that Lincoln Prep will be paying \$5,070 for over \$50k of items and will be able to take possession of the items after going through the court. Some of these items include several Smart Boards, band instruments, cafeteria items, coolers, etc. The only stipulation is that if the items are no longer needed during the first 18 months, Lincoln Prep must contact the State and turn the items over to them.

- M. **Next meeting** – The next Board Meeting is February 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM with committees meeting at 6:00 PM, if necessary.
- N. **Announcement** – Mr. Downs requested an update or count of how many staff members have received at least the 1st round of the Covid vaccine. Mr. Ford stated that none have received the vaccine yet, as only individuals over the age of 70 qualify right now. Several faculty members expressed a desire to receive the vaccine when the next tier opens, allowing a new group of individuals to qualify. A survey was completed at the request of Homeland Security to find out how many wanted the vaccine and about 50% reported that they did. Mr. Ford stated that a lot of people reporting no interest in getting the vaccine have been given misinformation regarding the vaccine and are worried about possible adverse reactions. He added that his wife and other family members have received both rounds with no reactions. The school nurse works with Primary Health and reported that they conduct Covid testing at GSU several days a week. She has ordered tests for Lincoln Prep.
- O. **Executive Session** – Mr. Watley made a motion to enter an Executive Session. This was seconded by Elizabeth Smith. The meeting was cleared of everyone except for Board members and the Executive Session began at 7:38 PM. The Executive Session ended, and the regular meeting resumed at 7:53 PM.
- P. **Adjournment** – Mr. Downs moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Watley. With nothing left to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.