

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**September 14, 2020 - 6:30 pm**  
**Annual Budget Hearing – 6:00 PM**  
**Via Teleconference**

- A. Call to Order** – The hearing was called to order at 6:10 PM by Mr. Wiley.
- B. Prayer**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Public Budget Hearing**
  - 1. Motion to approve the Opening of a Public Hearing for anyone that wishes to offer comments** – Mrs. Gallot made a motion to approve the opening of the public hearing. This was seconded by Mrs. McIntyre. The Public Hearing was opened to the public without opposition from the Board.
  - 2. Public Comments** – No members of the public were present to comment. Megan stated that the information was posted in the Ruston Daily Leader for the public. She also stated that any interested persons could contact Lincoln Prep staff to request copies.
  - 3. Motion to approve the closing of the public hearing** – Mr. Downs moved to close the public hearing, as no members of the public attended. This was seconded by Daphne Gallot. The hearing was closed without opposition from the Board.
- E. Approval of the General Meeting Agenda** – A motion to approve the general meeting agenda was made by Mr. Downs and seconded by Mrs. McIntyre. The Board approved the agenda without opposition.
- F. Adoption of Previous Minutes** – Following a motion made by Mr. Downs and seconded by Mr. Tatum, the minutes from the previous meeting were adopted.
- G. Roll Call**
  - 1. Present Members**
    - Robert Wiley
    - Daphne Gallot
    - Barbara McIntyre
    - Don Tatum
    - Hollis Downs
    - Clara Lewis
    - Eddie Robinson III
  - 2. Absent Members**
    - Forrest Moegle
- H. Lincoln Prep “Showcase”** – No showcase.
- I. Public Comments** – No members of the public were present to comment.
- J. Report of the Executive Director** –
  - 1.** Enrollment for October 1 is 477, which is an increase of 2 from the February 1 count. During the 2020-2021 enrollment period, 659 applications were received. As of 9/14/20, 625 students were offered enrollment, 595 of those accepted and 221 students have

been offered enrollment and Lincoln Prep is awaiting their acceptance. The projected enrollment is 620-630 students.

2. 2020-2021 orientation has been completed for grades 3-12. Orientation/Testing for grades K-2 will be 9/21-9/25 at Arcadia Methodist Church. Benchmark testing for grades 3-12 will be completed on 9/14-9/19. The first day for students in K-4 attending campus is 9/28. The first day for students in grades 5-12 attending in person will be 10/28. Parents still have 3 options for attending: in person full time, virtual full time, or hybrid.
3. The construction on the former Fred's building, which will serve as the temporary campus location, is underway. The changes required by the Fire Marshal have been completed and the new plans have been approved. Everything is expected to be completed by mid – October. The requested information for the modular buildings has been submitted to OSFM and staff awaiting feedback from the Fire Marshal. Once approved, expected completion should take 2-3 weeks.
4. Football season starts October 1. The location for home games is to be determined, due to not being able to play at GSU. Some games being played at Arcadia and Lincoln Prep has been approved to play at Carroll. Contact was made with Cedar Creek to inquire about holding games there to keep them close to home, but no response has been received yet. Stadiums can be filled to 25% capacity and members in different households are expected to socially distance. Spirit groups (cheer, band, dance) are not permitted at this time. Lincoln Prep's goal is to ensure that all students, spectators, and staff are kept as safe as possible. Mr. Ford stated that Board members may vote against having spectators in the stands if they wish but Lincoln Prep has documentation releasing them from any fault, should someone test positive for COVID after attending an event.
5. Mr. Wiley and Mr. Ford met with the State last week to discuss the Charter School Renewal. It was determined that the previous year's information will be used, and renewal will be done in October instead of December. A 4-year renewal is expected based on performance from the previous year. The Notice of Intent has been received. A formal motion and approval were requested to ensure that the Board still wishes to add Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 to the school. Schools with C or higher score will get an automatic approval, but Mr. Ford was encouraged to obtain and document the approval at this meeting. The grades will not be added until the permanent space is available, but Lincoln Prep can begin the paperwork to add those students in advance once approval is received from the Board. Mr. Downs made a motion to add Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 to Lincoln Prep once the permanent location has been completed. This was seconded by Daphne Gallot. The motion was approved without opposition from the Board. The document will be signed by Mr. Ford and Mr. Wiley and sent to the appropriate department next week.
6. Mr. Ford sent the LAPCS survey to all Board members and asked that they complete it as soon as possible.

#### **K. New Business**

1. **Motion to approve the Budget Resolution and Annual Operating Budget for FY 2020-21** – Mrs. McIntyre moved to approve the Budget Resolution and Annual Operating Budget for 2020-2021. This was seconded by Mr. Tatum and approved without

opposition from the Board. Mr. Downs asked about the reduced surplus and Megan stated that it was due to the move. \$1.2 million is directly associated with the move to the temporary facility. Most of this is one time set up fees and will not be carried over to the next year. The current budget is based on 590 students, but the new budget will include the increased enrollment of 620-630 students.

- 2. Motion to approve Pupil Progression Plan** – Ms. Cowan oversees the Pupil Progression Plan and stated that the annual requirement has been completed and sent to the appropriate department. The Dept. of Education provides the template to be used but it had not been updated since 2016-2017. The Board was provided the updated Plan to review. Items highlighted in blue were added by Lincoln Prep and include items such as Initial Entry into Kindergarten (regular and gifted), Entry requirements for all students, Transfer requirements, etc. All items in black are Department of Education standards. These describe the standard practices for either moving students to the next grade or holding them back. The Department of Education added different academic plans, including some changes for transfer students and students with disabilities. This Plan will change again to include Pre-K3 and Pre-K4, once approved. Mr. Ford asked if anything in the Plan is unique to Lincoln Prep or if it follows other schools in the area. Ms. Cowan stated that it follows almost every other school. The only exception is that Lincoln Prep does not have Job Start, but is a diploma tracked school. Mr. Tatum asked for elaboration as to what this means and was informed that it offers different options for job paths versus college paths. Ms. Cowan stated that students with disabilities, for example, may not be able to attend college, so they are offered other options. Mr. Ford added that all students have access to vocational options, but certain students may not have to take the required amount of Social Studies, Science, etc., therefore, would not be eligible to attend a 4-year University. Those students are offered at least 1 career certification in addition to college options. Although all students are prepared for both attending college and entering the work force after graduation, Lincoln Prep strives to have all students college ready. Mr. Tatum moved to approve the Pupil Progression Plan. This was seconded by Mrs. McIntyre and approved by the Board without opposition.
- 3. Motion to approve Bond Resolution** – The Municipal Advisor for the City of Ruston and the Police Jury contains all required disclosures from the Security Exchange Commission. This allows Lincoln Prep to work with them before any funds are accrued and allows LP to work with government officials to work with the bond attorney to build new school. Mrs. Gallot made a motion to approve this Resolution. This was seconded by Mrs. McIntyre and approved without opposition.
- 4. Motion to approve Development Partner for new school building** – Megan stated that Foley & Judell will serve as the bond attorney, giving approval for the delivery of Bonds not exceeding \$30 million with a maturity of not more than 45 years from this date, bearing interest at a rate no more than 7%. They have authorized Lincoln Prep to utilize mentioned people as underwriters. They have also allowed Lincoln Prep to reimburse itself any fees or expenses incurred before funds are received. It must be adopted before Lincoln Prep can be reimbursed. Mr. Ford clarified that it increases the strength of bonds if Lincoln prep stays below the max number. The document shows 25 year and

40-year options and originally showed funds available in June. It was requested that this be reconfigured to show funds available as early as possible. The financial projections are displayed on the document provided to the Board. Payout for 35 years is approximately \$805,000. Per the Municipal Advisors, the minimum is \$1.1 million, and Lincoln Prep would be close at 35 years, so it was recommended that LP do 45 years, which would allow time to build the fund balance. Mr. Wiley asked how much debt Lincoln Prep could service based on recently audited financial statements? Mr. Ford stated that the new building is projected to cost around \$25 million, so around \$29 million will need to be borrowed to cover all expenses. Mr. Ford stated that the original plan was for Braintree to build the school and lease it to Lincoln Prep until Lincoln Prep could afford to pay it off. Braintree recommended Lincoln Prep seeking bond funding to build the school on their own. The company that is being considered, Volkert, built the new Union Parish school. Mrs. Kenley was dismissed from the meeting before any further communication took place, as she has personal connections with a Volkert employee. Mr. Ford discussed the pros and cons of using Volkert versus using Braintree. Braintree is turn-key, meaning they build it and let the customer (Lincoln Prep) know when it has been completed whereas Volkert provides consultants and Lincoln Prep staff are involved in the whole process. Braintree is more expensive, as they are accepting the risk for loss and will build everything using in-house architects. The drawback to this would be that, since they have their own design team, if Lincoln prep wants something different, Braintree would draw it up, take it to Lincoln Builders, and the process would continue. Using Volkert, the designers and builders meet at one time to discuss all options and desires. Daphne Gallot inquired about the price difference between Braintree and Volkert. Mr. Ford stated that the difference was about \$1 million initially but since they were having to borrow money that Lincoln Prep would later have to cover, the difference is estimated to be around \$100-\$200k. Mr. Downs added that the company has been around for many years, is very reputable, and believes that an excellent team has been put together. Mrs. Gallot moved to approve Volkert as the new development partner for the permanent school building. This was seconded by Mr. Tatum and approved without opposition from the Board. Mrs. Kenley's husband lives the closes to where the project will be designed, therefore he would normally be assigned to lead it. The Vice President of Volkert requested that an additional vote be made to ensure that the Board is comfortable with this or if someone else should be appointed. It was confirmed that any decisions to be made would go straight to Mr. Wiley and Mr. Ford with Mrs. McIntyre and Glen Hall serving as substitutes, if necessary. Mr. Downs moved to accept Megan's husband as the project leader. This was seconded by Mrs. McIntyre. No Board members opposed or expressed concerns.

#### **L. Reports**

- 1. Financial** – see previous report/approval. July financials have been sent out and the payroll report has been sent to the Board Members.
- 2. Alumni and Community Relations** – No report.
- 3. Transportation and Facilities Update** – No report.
- 4. Education** – No report. Mrs. Gallot and Mrs. Lewis will begin the process for Superintendent's evaluation.

**M. Old Business**

**1. Relationship between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University –**

The electric bill is paid and caught up. Lincoln Prep is still occupying high school building for now. The cafeteria has been moved. Following conversation with GSU, Lincoln Prep plans to remain in the Alma J. Brown building until renovations on the temporary building are able to start. Mr. Ford reported that this location works better than the originally proposed location, as it is a more congested area. Mr. Tatum asked if Lincoln Prep will be permitted to use the GSU gym or stadium. Mr. Ford stated that no Lincoln Prep students are allowed on GSU campus for this school year and the beginning of the next year. He hopes to be separated from regulations listed in the lawsuit by October of next year but will not know for sure until then.

**2. Election of New Board Member –** Mr. Wiley stated that the Board is still accepting resumes and nominations for a new member. Mr. Washington was discussed during the last meeting and Mr. Ford stated that he would reach out to him. Mr. Tatum recommended Bobby Rayburn and was asked to have him forward his resume for review.

**N. Next meeting –** The next Board Meeting will be October 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM with committees meeting at 6:00 PM, if necessary. Mrs. Gallot asked for a list of what is needed for each committee. Mr. Ford stated that Lincoln Prep has “project managers” for committees and that Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gallot will need 4 Board members to have a quorum.

**O. Announcements –** No further announcements.

**P. Executive Session –** No session.

**Q. Adjournment –** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. McIntyre and seconded by Mr. Tatum. With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.