

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Grambling High Foundation

January 29, 2018

Regular Meeting

Grambling City Hall

6:00 p.m.

Mission Statement: The Mission of Lincoln Preparatory School is "To educate children to excel academically, socially, and emotionally for lifetime self-sufficiency." This mission will be accomplished by providing strong academic, extra-curricular, and service learning programs for students and families.

- A. Call to Order: President Birdex Copeland at 6:11pm CST
- B. Prayer: President Birdex Copeland
- C. Pledge of Allegiance: All
- D. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve agenda made by Dir. Stewart seconded by Dir. Wiley. All in favor-non opposed. Agenda adopted
- E. Adoption of Previous Minutes: Corrections were made to the December meeting. Motion to approve by Downs and seconded by Boden after the correction.
- F. Lincoln Preparatory School "Showcase": Mrs. Hanna Doss -QSM awarded elementary teacher. The school was awarded funds to be used her approved project. A grant was written for an updated Elmo that is compatible with the smartboard and 1000 linking cubes to be used in math.
- G. Roll Call and/or Introduction of Board Members
- H. Public Comments: None
- I. Report of the Executive Director: Gordan Ford

Enrollment is one short of the budget projection. 7.5 is projected for February. October count was 415. Special ed count 47 and 8 gifted count - both are above 2% for Lincoln parish. Grambling High varsity boys basketball rank 7th and Varsity girls ranked 9th. Organizational chart given for day to day operations. Reconciliation of athletics - everything is in and completed with 4th sector. All events are now properly reconciled. **Inquiry by Stewart:** Are there two people working the tables? **Response:** Yes

A copy of the letter from the Justice Department for the supplemental request was given to all board members.

Meetings with Trinity United Methodist Church regarding partnerships regarding recruitment and possibly using some of the facilities. Met also with Eldonta

Osborne, Boys and Girls Club, regarding possible after school program at the elementary. The biggest costs of starting up a new unit is food and transportation. The kids can be fed thru our current program for free. Also the children will already be present and no transportation will be needed. **Inquiry by Downs:** Will that impact our budget? Where would the money come from? **Response:** It will have a positive impact on the budget. The food is federally reimbursed. Thru our contract, the cost of the meals we pay the contractor is slightly less than the reimbursement. It is budget surplus for us every time a child consumes a meal on our campus. **Inquiry by Tatum:** Will the partnership with Trinity UMC upset/impact any other denominations in the area? **Response:** Not sure if it will upset anyone. We have talked with Trinity and Temple BC. We have spoken with both, since they are the two largest churches near Grambling, regarding recruitment and assisting us with meeting our DOJ goal.

Flyer given regarding Younlife - group interested in mentoring our children. **Inquiry by Boden:** Will this be after school or will the people come during the school day? **Response:** It could be both. It could be a club in the school, but definitely some after school involvement. They are involved in some other schools. While they are a christian organization, their methods are not so overt that they have had any problems in other public schools.

Primary Healthcare Services Center will come in to do our health screenings at no charge to the school. They are looking to have a part-time nurse on site at no charge to the school.

A presentation was given from Louisiana A+ Schools. Ms. Phaedra Burks introduced the group. She discussed the integration of the arts in the classrooms at her previous school location. She was very enthused regarding using the arts to impact test scores. Ms. Burks commended her staff for showing up for the presentation. **Inquiry by Downs:** Will the talented arts organization in Lincoln Parish, the NCLAC, be beneficial? **Response by Louisiana A+:** Definitely. We will reach out to them. The partnerships in the community are very important.

Possible funding for Lincoln Prep is to enter into a partnership with South Highlands. The first summer institute will occur on the campus of South Highlands being trained by those teachers, peer to peer mentorship can really change how one teaches. The Louisiana A+ school is a diverse one including failing, public, private, and charter schools. **Inquiry by Wiley:** Are the teachers in general receptive to the A+ school program thru out the state? **Response:** Yes. Most see it happening. Examples were given of the power of the collaboration. At least 85% of the teachers have to vote to be on board with the program for it to be implemented.

Inquiry by Boden: With regard to higher student achievements, do you have evidence that schools have moved in their school grade? **Response:** We see

attendance go up for students and teachers. Discipline reduction is decreased in all our schools. Parent engagement also increases. Bill Clinton is a huge supporter of A+ schools. **Notation by Ford:** There are some schools listed on the website in Oklahoma that they have used for benchmarks. In Louisiana we change our accountability systems about every two years, making it nearly impossible to make year to year comparisons. **Inquiry by Boden:** Two fold question: Are we discussing using it for the entire school, 1-12 and have you done a survey of the staff?

Notation by Burks: Initially my goal is to start it K-5. It is difficult to manage a site where I'm not present. When we are successful with the program, it will be easy to transfer what we have done to 6-12. Yes. Bethany and Kim came last year and did a site visit of our school and met with about seven members of our staff. Most of the staff seem interested because I've been speaking of it since I came.

It was suggested by A+ schools to start with the elementary, because we would need three different teams.

A+ schools usually accept schools in March but definitely would like to complete before May 6 because that's out day at the Legislatures. We are hopeful that the board will see the positive aspects of the program. There is always a waiting list.

Notation by Ford: The key thing is that this is not a curriculum change. We will still be using the Louisiana Tier 1 curriculum. It just giving the teachers tools and techniques to deliver that better to the kids.

Inquiry by Downs: How much financial support will we have to raise locally to help make this a reality?

Response: (Ford) The answer could be none. We have some title II funds that were received late last year that could be rolled over. We will look at that later, now we are just looking for the support and will make a final decision.

Roll Call

Present: Dr. Birdex Copeland, Katrina Boden, Hollis Downs, Robert Wiley, Eddie Robinson III, Pam Stewart, Donald Tatum

Dr. Rhonda Pruitt - was present but had to leave for family emergency.

Absent: Rachel Johnson

J. Legal Update

K. Committee Assignments / Reports

a. Education and Personnel: Final documentation for the executive director's survey will be complete with tracking by the next meeting. It will be sent out via email. It will be sent out by February 9, 2018. No meeting.

b. Finance : Call was on Friday. Comments will be deferred until Kevin gives his report.

Kevin(4th Sector): A copy of the December financial report was given. It was reviewed with the finance committee in detail. Page 1: narrative- basing the narrative on the February count of 425. Page 2: Shows balances as of December 31. Page 3 is the dashboard that tracks some key ratios. We are seeing some positive trends like in the current ratio. Unrestricted day's cash is still below the target. This is due to delayed funding for MFPs. Debt to asset ratio has a downward trend. The available cash hits a low about Feb. and March. We are in a tight cash situation. Page 4: We have lowered our projections in some of the fed revenue. There are also expenses tied to it. A few changes were made to the salary benefit section. An overall decrease of \$100,000. Page 5: Actual Year to date numbers compared to the forecasted amount. Year to date: 2.58 million, which leaves about 49% remaining in the budget.

The finance committee met on Friday, January 25 via conference call. The audit results were followed up on. It was agreed upon to have to an interim finance meeting in addition to the normal monthly meeting. We are asking at that time to have an updated policies and procedures that were in the audit report as well as updates in documentation requirements and procedure requirements dealing with debit cards, manual checks, credit cards and ACH.

It was moved by Wiley and seconded by Stewart to adopt the finance report. It was approved by all.

c. Facilities and Transportation: No report.

d. Alumni and Community Relations: No report.

L. Old Business - none

Next Meeting- February 26, 2018

M. Announcements

N. Executive Session: Board went into executive session

O. Adjournment: Motioned by Stewart and seconded by Boden. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

Note: The Board may go into Executive Session as permitted by State Law.