

## MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Members Present: | Micah Valentine<br>Brian Smith<br>Berra Byrd<br>Sam Sims<br>Stephanie Byrd<br>Elizabeth Driscoll<br>Daniel Lumm<br>Suzanne Turner<br>Allison Farr<br>Greg Abel<br>David Wooten<br>Lienne Medford |
| Guests:          | None                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Task                                                                                                             | Responsibility | Due Date   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Update December meeting notes with correct COVID-19 cases                                                        | Greg           | 01.19.2021 |
| Send parent hybrid attendance communication (see page 5 for text)                                                | Greg           | 01.14.2021 |
| Discuss continuing iPad updates/buy-back program once current orders are received and in use at February meeting | David/Greg     | 02.09.2021 |

## MEETING NOTES

Meeting began at 6:08

# AGENDA AND MINUTES

- Meeting agenda approved
  - Adjustment to correct COVID numbers for December 8, 2020 meeting
- Past meeting minutes approved

# MEETING UPDATES

## GREG REPORT

- Staff gratitude for bonus and for Operation Stocking Stuffer

## LANGSTON FOUNDATION BOARD

Meeting notes | 3.9.2021

- \$240/teacher in Operation Stocking Stuffer
- Greenville County CARES Money/Technology Purchases
  - \$45,000 – with requested money, 2 new iPad carts, mics for each teacher, 7 additional iPad Pros for special ed resource classroom
    - Additional 30 new generation iPads to replace oldest ones that were iPad Air 2s that were reaching end of life
    - Can still use old iPads too
    - May choose to use Apple buy-back program to replace in one old carts (those iPads are 2015)
    - With buy-back program, in November/December would get about \$2000 for old ones that would bring about 2/3 of the cost of new ones with cases
    - Have 8 carts total (240 iPads), enough for half of all students to have on their desk at a time
    - 4 carts with Gen 5 iPads and 4 with Gen 8 iPads
    - No rush to update/get more right at this second but can work towards it
    - FUTURE BUSINESS: Discuss if there is need to order more/proceed with buy-back
  - Microphones for teachers are all in and working on setting up and supporting teacher use
- Per pupil allocation adjusted each January based on last year's financials
  - From July to December, per pupil was \$6114 and will increase to \$6344
  - Increase of about \$177,000 overall
  - Will be trued up in June upon last payment for fiscal year, district will send more if they owe or take out if needed – based upon final enrollment
- Rescheduled to administer 2<sup>nd</sup> group of students PSAT on January 26
  - Rescheduled because of windstorm in October
- Completed district Annual Report that goes in district report that is sent to state on December 18
- COVID-19 since meeting on December 8
  - 61 students have had COVID or been out
    - 44 absences since Monday of last week
    - Some are still out, some are sick, some are quarantining through this week and into next
  - 2 staff out with COVID
    - Covering classes in-house and teacher is teaching from home
    - Has been going well
  - Parent notification emails are sent when classes are affected
    - Most absences now are repercussions since Christmas
  - Have 3 staff who had COVID over break
    - These staff members have returned
  - Have asked teachers to stop only relying on face shields; must wear masks as well
  - Have had a number of staff concerned about Greenville numbers – caring for parents and children and are worried
  - Whatever we decide to do, we said in November we will not change anything until second semester and decided in December, we would give notice

## LANGSTON FOUNDATION BOARD

Meeting notes | 3.9.2021

- School attendance
  - If we decide not to go back to school sooner, teachers have started inviting students who are virtual during the day to join live class and it can be a help as we move forward; knowing some students cannot, they are also planning to record class discussion that is instructional part
    - Teachers who have been recording for awhile are sharing with other teachers
    - Some students will be very faithful with it, others will be hit and miss, and some will only watch the recording
    - Recommend 4 core academics are the stronger focus areas for students to attend live sessions
      - Avoid students sitting at computer for 6 hours
      - Turn off recording and have kids do assignments after teacher presentation
      - Those who are at home can message teacher during that time to ask questions (and students in class can ask)
    - Mixed feedback – liked having teacher deliver lesson but had to wait for each class to begin
    - Most teachers were open to giving it a try and those who were less experienced asked those who were practiced for ideas
    - Will discuss in more depth at a faculty meeting tomorrow
    - Also, tomorrow, meeting with assistant school superintendent and DHEC
      - It is possible to get plexiglass but impossible to maintain 3 feet of separation in 11 classrooms
  - Discussion on returning to school
    - Currently have 33 virtual students
      - Likely will have more if more days are added at school
      - It is not a permanent decision but asking to not go back and forth
      - Had a few come back from being virtual 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter in November but no others
    - Discuss in new business portion of meeting

### DR. MEDFORD

- Met with 4 teachers working on dissertations and they will all finish and graduate this year

### DANIEL

- No report

### SAM

- No report

### BRIAN

- Plan to run payroll from same file as financials
  - Will continue to run on old system while getting new one running and then will be able to turn off subscription to old one
  - Asked accountant for progress update but not started yet
  - Told accountant it was acceptable to bill for additional time and fee will increase (but has not increased in years)
  - Do not know why it was separate files to begin with
  - Ideal solution; designed to run this way

## LANGSTON FOUNDATION BOARD

Meeting notes | 3.9.2021

- Think they are wrapping up end of year financials but will put in place once that is done
- Quickbooks is a bit tricky but can be done
- Accounting hasn't changed much and is consistent
- Will start budget process in next month

### OLD BUSINESS

- None

### NEW BUSINESS

- Returning to school 4 day per week
  - Have technology in place for teachers to teach for anyone who is uncomfortable to be in school
  - When does it make sense to come back in person?
  - Surveyed teachers and there was a high percentage that supported 4 days per week
    - Opinions may have changed somewhat, but still all agree that goal is to get back to normal as soon as possible
  - We can't meet the DHEC guidelines for distancing
  - Medford: wisest course is to stay where we are and keep watching
    - Greenville is in national news as biggest spike and Spartanburg is #5
  - Stay focused on where we are, not an arbitrary date when we are going back
  - What do we base a decision on at this point?
  - Teachers are the ones at risk and not fair to put them in situation knowing we can't have spacing
  - Perhaps consider when teachers can be vaccinated
  - **Motion for Vote:** Begin 4-day in-person beginning at second semester
    - In favor: 3
    - Opposed: 7
- If no decision, will discuss it at next board meeting on February 9, 2021
- What is the decision-making process for level of openness?
- Are there other options beyond just saying next week or mid-February?
  - Could have special meetings with criteria to trigger
  - Appreciate consistency
  - Could consider an optional 4 day a week return
  - With 2 day a week, has been controlled and have not have major issues
  - If we change, there must be a logical rationale for decision
  - Share reasoning for not changing now
    - Given physical constraints at Langston, hybrid has been the solution so far this year
- Do we want to vote hybrid for the rest of the year? Does that ease pressure?
  - Unknown is that state testing for schools is still on at this point
    - Cannot manage it in a hybrid setting
    - Could schedule around that – have half of kids come for a week and then the other half the next week
- At least 11 classrooms that won't all distancing
  - Put 4 classrooms in gym but have to put PE classes somewhere?

## LANGSTON FOUNDATION BOARD

Meeting notes | 3.9.2021

- Use 2 classrooms for a single class?
- Logistical and practical impediments
- Articulate a standard of when we will discuss again or change decision and hybrid until then
- If we return to 4-5 days per week next year (2021-2022), will likely not continue to offer virtual
- Can communicate that we are not going back fulltime but now do have microphones and can connect live to classrooms
- Have made a decision and this is what we are looking at – the things we are worried about have gotten worse, not better
- We will not consider a change in schedule until community positivity rate has dropped to below 10%
- **Motion for Vote:** Langston Charter Middle School, for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year, will continue its current hybrid instruction until community positivity rate drops to 10% or lower for two consecutive weeks, while maintaining four of five CDC mitigating factors\* of containment. Only then will the board vote to consider an increase to four days per week face-to-face instruction.

\*Factors of containment are: use of masks, social distancing (6 feet), hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, and contact tracing. Langston classrooms make social distancing guidelines unachievable.

- In favor - 9
- Opposed - 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:40