



**Langston Charter Middle School Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**  
**6:30 pm**  
**APPROVED Minutes for the Meeting**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order  
Brian Woodard called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm and welcomed the English, Science, and Math Departments.
- II. Roll Call  
Present: Brian Woodard, Will Lewis, Gena Runnion, Brian Smith, Lukasz Kamieniecki, Cliff Carden, Lynn Ramsey, Greg Abel, and Kelly Weekes
- III. Approval of the Meeting Agenda  
A. Will Lewis moved that the agenda be approved and Brian Smith seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- IV. Approval of the September 8, 2015 LCMS Board Meeting Minutes  
A. Quorum was not present to approve the minutes.
- V. Reports  
A. Department Reports
  1. Math Department (David Case, Sherrie Thompson, Susan Wood, Sandy Lorick)
    - i. Using the Mathia Software as an additional assessment tool this year. Also using graphing calculators.
    - ii. Challenges: technology, understanding and adapting to changes in state testing, guiding students to think critically and independently, providing each student with the proper math instruction needed for personal growth and success (i.e. correct math class placement)
    - iii. Successes: evidence of critical/independent thinking improved after a year of using the Carnegie curriculum; year of working with new textbooks
    - iv. Impact of new SC Standards: in order to have advanced math curriculum, the instruction has been accelerated and causes math to be even more difficult; due to Langston growth, there are more students not advanced in the math area.

- v. A Math 6 course offering would benefit many students who would of course advance to Math 7 (i.e. grade level). Other Greenville County Schools are offering a similar structure.
  - vi. In the early years the majority of students were ready for advanced level classes (standards were not as rigorous then – there have been three standards changes since then). Parents no longer consider the rigorous math standards.
  - vii. Needs: ability to offer 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math classes for the success of each student (struggling as well as gifted students); additional teachers would enable Langston to continue offering Geometry Honors with no online instruction. Ultimately students are the ones who benefit. There are enough struggling students in each class to form a grade level math class.
  - viii. Recommendation: look at our peer institutions and follow suit with placement according to 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher recommendations and test scores. Students can no longer afford to miss levels of math instruction.
2. English Department (Rachel Hamilton, John English, Stephanie Nelson, Tolly Garrison)
- i. Goals: focus on more informational text/evidence-based reading development (less interpretation, less literature, evidence based, grammar is making a comeback); teaching timed writing; Read to Succeed literacy improvement; cross-curricular lessons; honors AP/college prep. for the new SAT and ACT
  - ii. Strategies/Projects: single gender strategies, coordinated 7<sup>th</sup> grade *Hatchet* novel with science and a field trip; Reading RIOT (Reading Instead of Talking) quarterly; portfolios with poetry and novels; consistent timed writing in preparation for ACT Aspire; Honors nine week research project for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter
  - iii. Successes: Langston English scores are still consistently above other Greenville County Schools; the Department sets goals, collaborates, and exemplifies camaraderie
  - iv. Board help: focus on technology improvement, need ACT resources, keep focus on mission of LCMS.
3. Science Department (David Leeke, Linda Melcher, Beth Roueche, Michael Shade)
- i. Goals: tracking student progress on science standards; pre and post assessment in all grade levels to measure growth; field trips; using interactive notebooks, lesson plans/share drive; addition of models (engineering process) for all topics per the new standards

- ii. Interesting/Engaging Strategies: engineering process included; use of outside speakers via Skype, parent speakers discussing careers in science; partnering with Cal Berkeley using three different modules
- iii. Success/Accomplishments: online science fair; students Skyping with astronomers and moving and taking pictures with telescope; submitted grants for tablets to use in science classroom; Lego Robotics competed nationally
- iv. Board help: need more one on one available technology to do more Skyping

B. Greg Abel, Principal

- 1. ACT Aspire scores cannot yet be shared, but will do so when they have been released publically.
- 2. Putting together some technology needs for security.
- 3. Consider hiring another full time math teacher to meet needs. Will put more thought into this. Adding math placement options to the teacher recommendation for Langston. This will give insight into level distribution. Need grade distribution per class in terms of performance.

C. Kelly Weekes, Campus Affairs

- 1. PSAT will be given October 14. 53/78 will take it.
- 2. Professional Development Day is October 15 with a focus on ADHD and anxiety. Careers will also be a part of the program.
- 3. October 23 is the application deadline as well as the Non Profit Fair.
- 4. Halloween Bash is also October 23. 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to DC is October 27-31. Report cards go out October 29. October 30 is Community Service Day.

D. Sarah Anderson, Governance

- 1. Working on an online training for new Board members.

E. Ashley Teal, Human Resources – No Report

F. Lucasz Kamieniecki, IT/Systems

- 1. Replace computers in the lab and use older ones on a cart. Working on formalizing a three year replacement cycle.
- 2. Consider a general technology course (Office 365, keyboarding, etc.)

G. Brian Smith, Treasurer

- 1. Audit went well and has been submitted.
- 2. As of September 30 balance is approximately \$845,000.

H. Brian Woodard, Chairman

- 1. One last Interest Meeting on October 20 at 7:00 at the church.

- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
  - 1. Lynn Ramsey, Alison Thompson, and Kelly Weekes met to discuss Ways and Means. Lynn will also work on marketing and promotion.
- VIII. Calendar
  - A. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, 2015. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.
- IX. Adjourn
  - A. Brian Woodard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gena Runnion, Secretary