

Lake Oconee Academy Board of Governors
Regular Monthly Meeting
5:30 P.M., April 4, 2017

Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mark Lipscomb, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lipscomb called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:40 P.M.
- B. **Establishment of Quorum/Roll Call:** Governors Richard Schmidt, Mark Lipscomb, Connie Hoyle, Kim Larkin, Byron Lombard and James Brooks were in attendance. Fatima Fields Was out of town and absent. Also present was CEO, Otho Tucker, and Greene County Board of Education Chairman, Mike Lynch and Carolyn Dallas, representative of US Congressman Jody Hice.
- C. **Approval of Minutes:** Kim Larkin made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7 2017, regular monthly meeting. Seconded by Connie Hoyle. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Finance Report:** Dr. Tucker gave a financial report on the February 2017 financials. A motion was made to approve the report as information by Kim Larkin. Seconded by Connie Hoyle. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Parent Association Report:** Dr. Otho Tucker gave a parent Association report noting that the parent Association will be holding two meetings to discuss scheduling for rising 5th and 6th graders and college entrance requirements and testing for high schoolers.
- F. **Foundation Report:** Valerie Duvall, Executive Director of the LOA foundation gave a report. She indicated that the foundation was expecting to receive 2 grants: one for underprivileged students and one for performing arts.
- G. **Faculty report:** Dr. Hester Vasconcelos and Ashley Funderburk gave a testing update. All testing except for 1st and 2nd grades is being conducted electronically. Next year 1st and 2nd grades will be tested electronically. Testing will commence within the next weeks and will continue on and off for various groups over the 5 weeks thereafter.
- H. **CEO Report and Action Items:**
1. Katie O'Neal Walker, a research psychologist and member of the faculty at you GA has volunteered to teach as an adjunct professor for the capstone program throughout the next year.
 2. 6 students from LOA are taking an online chemistry class through Georgia College and State University for college credit this summer between their junior and senior years. They will be using the LOA labs to complete the lab portion of the class. They have invited any Greene County High School student who wishes to attend.
 3. Dr. Tucker gave an update on the ATLAS homework and dinner, which took place on March 22, 2017, which he indicated was a success.
 4. Dr. Tucker gave an update on the USDA loan status. A final meeting with the local area representative will take place on Thursday, April 6 before finalizing the application and sending it to the State office.
 5. Dr. Tucker gave an update on the modular classroom project. Richard Schmidt presented a proposed contract for a single modular classroom unit for the coming year. After discussion,

Byron Lombard made a motion to approve the contract and its addendums. Seconded by Kim Larkin. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Dr. Tucker gave an applications update. 508 applications have been accepted for the 2017 – 2018 school year, a record number. It is expected that roughly 50 new spots will be available, allowing 1 in 10 applicants to matriculate, due to the unavailability of classroom space and the cap on growth established by the Greene County Board of Education in the newest charter.
7. Dr. Tucker proposed application, lottery and enrollment dates for the 2017 – 2018 school year: Applications are due by March 31, 2017; the lottery will be held Wednesday, April 5, 2017; the system offer to enroll or position on wait list will be created on April 5, 2017; and, proof of residence will be required by Monday, June 12, 2017.
8. Dr. Tucker discussed the PreK-4 program for the coming year and suggested there would be for classes. Two will be bright from the start classes. Four will be applied for but it is expected that we will only be funded for two. LOA has the authority from the State Department of Education to create two additional classes which can be privately funded. The Federal CAPS program will assist in funding for those unable to afford the program costs. After discussion, Byron Lombard made a motion to continue the two current PreK-4 classes and add two additional Bright from the Start classes or private pay classes as necessary. Seconded by Kim Larkin. Motion carried unanimously
9. Richard Schmidt presented the new Lake Oconee Academy Lottery, Waitlist and Enrollment Policy and Procedures for review and discussion by the board. The new procedure was made necessary by the decision to utilize an electronic lottery system for the coming school year. The new procedures now present a comprehensive policy and procedures dealing with applications, the lottery, the wait list, and enrollment. After a discussion centering around fairness and accessibility to all families due to funding requirements, Kim Larkin made a motion to adopt the policy as written. Seconded by James Brooks. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Richard Schmidt presented the new and revised Enrollment Preference Policy. After direction by the Georgia State Board of Education Office of Charter Schools to create a policy to interpret enrollment preferences set out under Georgia law and within the Charter, and because of recent concerns over interpretation of those rules, the Enrollment Preference Policy was modified to clarify or establish definitions of siblings, the governing board, teachers, “other employees” and students matriculating from associated prekindergarten programs. After discussion, Connie Hoyle made a motion to adopt the Enrollment Preference Policy as revised to clarify preferences regarding part-time employees. After further discussion, Kim Larkin seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Here was no public comment.

J. Byron Lombard made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and potential litigation. Seconded by Kim Larkin

K. Richard Schmidt made a motion to exit the executive session. Seconded by Kim Larkin. The meeting returned to the regular session. No action was taken within or without the executive session.

L. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made Kim Larkin. Seconded by James Brooks. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.