

Lake Oconee Academy Board of Governors
Regular Monthly Meeting
5:30 P.M., September 5, 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 5:30 P.M. September 5, 2017.
- B. **Establishment of Quorum/Roll Call:** Governors Richard Schmidt, Mark Lipscomb, Connie Hoyle, Byron Lombard, David Mapp, Kim Larkin and Fatima Fields were in attendance. James Brooks, a great man, has gone to heaven. Also present was CEO, Otho Tucker and CFO Tim Hong.
- C. **Approval of Minutes:** Byron Lombard made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2017, regular monthly meeting. Seconded by Kim Larkin. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Finance Report:** Tim Hong presented the finance report. After discussion, Richard Schmidt made a motion to approve the report as information. Seconded by Byron Lombard. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Parent Association Report:** Dr. Tucker reported that the Parent Association, now called the Parent Organization has been reconstituted with the following officers:

President – Leslie Clark
Vice President – Ginger DiMascio
Secretary – Alicia Colby
Treasurer – Ashley Vinson

F. **Foundation Report:**

Jennifer Vaughan has been nominated by the Parent Organization as a new director to the Lake Oconee Academy Foundation. Following discussion, the appointment by the LOA Board of Governors has been delayed pending revision and clarification of the Foundation Bylaws, dealing with appointments, after which time the nomination will be acted upon by the appropriate board.

G. **CEO Report and Action Items:**

- 1. Dr. Tucker and Richard Schmidt gave an update on the USDA loan and the construction loan. Currently, the USDA loan is underway and substantially approved pending receipt of the last few deliverable items. Currently bond counsel is putting together the construction loan with a current proposed closing date of October 2, 2017.

2. Dr. Tucker presented a request for assistance with a Homework Dinner for ATLAS. After discussion the board directed Dr. Tucker to sponsor the homework dinner to be held during the coming year at the First United Methodist Church family life Center in Greensboro. Any board member wishing to help may attend.
3. Dr. Tucker presented the Greene County college and career Academy memorandum of understanding (MOU) which was delivered recently by the Greene County Board of Education. The MOU sets out the basic general agreements on how the college and career Academy will function. The parties to the agreement are the Greene County Board of Education, Athens Technical College, Lake Oconee Academy, and Taliaferro County Schools. Richard Schmidt reported that there were a number of issues and clarifications that were necessary before executing the MOU. After discussion, Richard Schmidt made a motion to enter into the MOU upon the following conditions: a committee of Dr. Tucker, Richard Schmidt and David Mapp would work through the questions and conditions; the questions and conditions would be reasonably solved by the committee and Greene County Board of Education; and, Chairman Lipscomb would have the authority to execute the MOU. Seconded by David Mapp. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
4. Dr. Tucker presented a proposal by Michael Kelly to be the owner's representative in connection with construction of the high school facility. The owner's representative acts as the agent of Lake Oconee Academy, representing its interest in the construction project, dealing with the architect and contractor. After discussion, Byron Lombard made a motion to approve the proposal and hire Michael Kelly as the owner's representative. Seconded by Kim Larkin. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Dr. Tucker presented a proposal to establish the James Brooks Scholarship in memory of James Brooks, founding director, instrumental in the establishment of the original charter. After discussion, Richard Schmidt made a motion to approve the proposal and establish the scholarship upon such terms and conditions as are presented to the Board for final action. Seconded by Kim Larkin. The motion carried unanimously.

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

In Memoriam

Greensboro, Ga. (September 14, 2017) - A long-time member of the Lake Oconee Academy (LOA) family, Board of Governors founding member James Brooks, age 80, has passed away. Mr. Brooks joined the LOA Board of Governors in 2007, and was an avid supporter of quality education and strongly believed in the mission of LOA. He was instrumental in the passage of the initial charter to bring LOA to Greene County. Without his efforts, the vision of LOA may not have come to fruition. [Through James' direct efforts, a voting majority was achieved at the state Board of Education. The charter otherwise is unlikely to have passed] His friendly demeanor, generous nature and thoughtful actions will be missed by the LOA Board, faculty and students.

Mr. Brooks, a native of Greensboro and part-time Atlanta resident, spent his professional career in mechanical construction. In 2002, he successfully completed the Dartmouth College Tuck School of Business Advanced Minority Business Executive Program. In 2005, he was recognized by the Greene County chapter of the NAACP for his support of minority advancement and contributions to the greater Greensboro community. Mr. Brooks was named an accomplished alumnus of the former F. T. Corry High School for classes from 1949 to 1960. He also served on the board and budget committee of the Atlanta Old Timers, Inc., an organization that raises money for books and scholarships for students in the Atlanta area and beyond. He was active with students in the Greensboro Dreamers program and lived by the philosophy, "You are never too old to learn; the day you stop learning is the day you stop growing."

Mr. Brooks is survived by his wife Virginia, a retired elementary school teacher who spent over 40 years educating Atlanta students. Together they have truly impacted the lives of countless students.

"James believed that life is not always fair, but with great determination, you can achieve whatever it is you set out to accomplish," said Dr. Otho, Tucker, CEO of LOA.

In that spirit, LOA has started the James Brooks Scholarship Fund that will be awarded annually to a student who exemplifies the three cornerstones of LOA - citizenship, scholarship and community - and shown resilience and tenacity in their educational journey. Each year, LOA will honor a senior pursuing post-secondary educational work that embodies Mr. Brooks' outlook that with enough determination, anything is possible.

Contributions may be made to the James Brooks Scholarship Fund, c/o Lake Oconee Academy, 1021 Titan Circle, Greensboro, GA, 30642.