

Lake Oconee Academy Board of Governors
Regular Monthly Meeting
5:30 P.M., February 6, 2018

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. February 6, 2018.
- B. **Establishment of Quorum/Roll Call:** Governors Richard Schmidt, Mark Lipscomb, Connie Hoyle, Fatima Fields, Byron Lombard, and David Mapp were in attendance. Kim Larkin, was absent. Also present was CEO, Otho Tucker, Upper School Director, Jody Worth, and Greene County School Board Chairman, Mike Lynch.
- C. **Approval of Minutes:** Connie Hoyle made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2018, regular monthly meeting. Seconded by Fatima Fields. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Finance Report:** Dr. Tucker presented the finance report. After discussion, Byron Lombard made a motion to approve the report as information. Seconded by Connie Hoyle. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Tucker discussed the financial efficiency rating published by the Georgia State Board of Education. Lake Oconee Academy received a 5 out of 5 for its financial efficiency. Anita White Carson middle school received a 1.5. Union point Elementary received a 2. Greensboro Elementary received a 1. Greene County High School received a 2. The published data showed that Lake Oconee Academy spent an average of \$8000 per student per year on instruction plus some of its capital costs while the other schools in the district spent an average of \$13,500 per student per year on instruction without capital costs. That number should be adjusted by \$700 per student for transportation which would generate a and average School District cost of 12,800 per student which is roughly \$4800 per student more for the School District over what LOA is spending. Beginning in 2 years, there will be an even greater disparity when LOA begins paying debt service on the high school and middle school project. It is noted that Chairman Lynch is working expertly and diligently to correct that disparity.

Dr. Tucker discussed the Foundation reimbursement from the high school project construction loan, which reimbursed the Foundation \$987,000 for monies previously spent on the project prior to the finalization of the USDA and construction loans. Lake Oconee Academy was reimbursed \$941,000 for monies that it spent on the construction project prior to finalization of the USDA and construction loans. Those monies were spent in an effort to move the project ahead, while waiting for finalization of the USDA loan, which was approximately a year behind the original schedule. By making those payments, it moved the project roughly 6 months ahead of where the schedule would otherwise be. Current scheduling shows completion of the project for the high school building near Christmas break in the 2018 – 19 school year and for the Student Life Center 2 months following that. Discussions are continuing on utilizing the reimbursement monies to pay a portion of the cost for a fine arts building project.

Dr. Tucker presented and discussed a long-range budget

- E. **Parent Association Report:** Dr. Tucker and Jody Worth gave a Parents Association report.
- F. **Foundation Report:** Dr. Tucker gave a Foundation report.

G. CEO Report and Action Items:

1. Dr. Tucker discussed the foundation nomination of Jennifer Vaughan for the Lake Oconee Academy Foundation Board which had been previously discussed but never acted on. After discussion by the board, Byron Lombard made a motion to approve Jennifer Vaughan for a seat on the Lake Oconee Academy Foundation Board. Seconded by Richard Schmidt. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Dr. Tucker discussed the construction timeline and noted that a request for proposals has been sent out to build the high school baseball field.
3. Dr. Tucker and Byron Lombard discussed the adopt-a-highway program, sanctioned under the Greene County Code of Ordinances, for the purpose of providing a more uniform and equitable method of car stacking and entry into the school during car line. Currently, some cars are properly stacking on West Lake Road and N. Campus Dr. Others are cutting in line from Carey Station Road. The adopt-a-road would allow traffic control on Carey Station Road prohibiting use of the decel lane to cut in line ahead of those properly stacking on West Lake Road. After discussion, Connie Hoyle made a motion to apply for and adopt-the-highway program for that portion of Carey Station Road adjacent to the school. Seconded by Fatima Fields. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
4. Dr. Tucker presented information on student phones on campus. To studies presented showed that cell phones, while a valuable tool, in elementary and secondary school students, tend to be more of a distraction than a benefit. Statistics showed that high achieving students, when deprived of telephones during the school day averaged a 5 to 6 percent improvement in grades while lower achieving students averaged a 15 percent improvement in grades. The board directed Dr. Tucker and Richard Schmidt to prepare a cell phone policy prohibiting phone use during school hours for presentation to the board at the next meeting.
5. Dr. Tucker presented a proposal to begin design of the fine arts classroom building. After discussion, Richard Schmidt made a motion to authorize Little and Company, architects to begin preliminary design work. Seconded by Connie Hoyle. After discussion the motion carried unanimously.
6. Dr. Tucker presented a copy of a proposed House Bill 788 which essentially provides a way for students living in lower achieving school zones to utilize the address of a person living in a high achieving school zone, as their home address, to provide a way for students to migrate to higher achieving schools.
7. Dr. Tucker noted that LOA has been designated a National Beta Club School of Merit again this year.
8. Dr. Tucker noted that the school recently held a fifth-grade science fair. Following that, a statewide science fair was held at Georgia College at which there were 400 participants. Lake Oconee Academy sent 26 students. All 26 students won either a first, second or third prize. The group had 18 first prizes, 3 second prizes and 5 third prizes.

H. Byron Lombard made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Seconded by David Mapp. After discussion, during which no action was taken, Connie Hoyle made a motion to exit the executive session. Seconded by Byron Lombard.

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

LAKE OCONEE ACADEMY
GRADUATION AWARDS POLICY
effective as of December 5, 2017

To be eligible for all awards, honors, scholarships, and other recognition that would be afforded to any other graduate, a student must take at least one course during his or her sophomore year at Lake Oconee Academy, and all remaining high school or dual enrollment classes necessary for graduation from Lake Oconee Academy.

Any student who completes all high school requirements in less than four (4) academic years, and who declares his or her intention to graduate early prior to entering school the year of such early graduation, will graduate as a senior the year the student meets the then current graduation requirements, with all rights, privileges, and honors of any other student graduating in that spring semester.

Any student who completes all high school requirements in less than four (4) academic years, and who declares his or her intention to graduate early prior to entering school the year of such early graduation, and who is entitled to a midyear (December) graduation, will graduate with and be awarded the rights, privileges, and honors of the class graduating the spring of that academic year.

NOTE: Pursuant to motion of the Board, during its passage, the requirement herein that a student declare his or her intention to graduate early prior to entering the school year of such early graduation shall take effect on the 1st day following the completion of the 2017 – 2018 school year.