

Lake Oconee Academy Board of Governors

Regular Monthly Meeting
5:30 PM, Monday, April 6, 2020

- A. **Call to Order:** Mark Lipscomb called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. on April 6, 2020.
- B. **Establishment of Quorum/Roll Call:** Governors Richard Schmidt, Byron Lombard, Mark Lipscomb, and Kim Larkin were in attendance. David Mapp and Freddie Evans were absent. Also present were CEO Dr. Otho Tucker, Dr. Jody Worth, Dr. Chris Harth and Jay Cawley, IT Director.
- C. **Approval of Minutes:** Kim Larkin made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2020, regular monthly meeting. Motion seconded by Byron Lombard. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Finance Report:** Dr. Tucker gave the March 2020 financial report. A motion was made by Byron Lombard to approve the report as information. Seconded by Kim Larkin. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Foundation Report.** Dr. Tucker reported on the status of the Denim and Diamonds fundraiser which was held March 7, 2020. The fundraiser grossed, approximately \$295,000.00 and netted approximately \$220,000.00. A general thanks was given to its chair, Alison Evans and everybody involved in the production of the fundraiser.
- F. **Public Comment:** There Was No Public comment.
- G. **CEO Report and Action Taken:**
1. Dr. Tucker presented the Board with a proposed administrative structure in connection with ongoing planning;
 2. Dr. Tucker proposed some amendments to the lottery policy based on upgrades made to the schoolmint program which provides for more comprehensive notification to persons who have been picked in the lottery helping them finalize registration;
 3. Dr. Tucker discussed enrollment and the lottery. Currently, there are 124 pre-k applications for 44 spots. 50 of those are sibling preferences. There are a total of 281 applications with 94 priority students. The lottery date is April 8, 2020
 4. Mark Lipscomb discussed and called a special called meeting at 5:30 PM April 20, 2020 to discuss the lottery and enrollment options. Currently, there are 1006 students attending and being funded by the Greene County Board of Education. Greene County Board of Education has indicated that it will not increase the amount for the next fiscal year. Therefore, no additional students will be excepted under the lottery to be held on April 8 unless and until a different agreement is reached with the Board of Education. In each of the previous two years, the Board of Education has agreed to increase the number of students that it funded for LOA over and above the charter limitations which had the result of allowing LOA to provide four instead of three classes at each grade level starting in kindergarten. This allowed LOA to add one additional class in one grade level each year for two years. For FY 20/21, the Board of Education has determined to quit funding those additional children and has now left it to LOA to fund any new students coming into the school in that fourth class at the next grade level. The result is that LOA will be funded for the 1006 students currently in the school, but not allow any new children to matriculate into the school. Currently, the communications from the Board of Education are that they were elected to lower

the millage rate and have determined to do so by limiting the number of children matriculating into LOA and that each board member supports this position.

5. Dr. Tucker gave an update on activities surrounding Covid19. All students are now taking video classes. He commended the faculty on the fine job it has done to ramp up that process in a record short amount of time. Administration has been working for two to three years on a video learning platform. Much of that was in place and allowed the school to go 100% online in a matter of two weeks instead to the planned sixteen months. The process is showing its strengths and weaknesses and those are being dealt with and adjusted and there has been much growth in the efficiency of the process, since it began. All high school sports have been canceled. High school graduation will go forward and all graduating students will get credit. All students in all other grades will get credit for the FY 19-20 school year. Teachers are meeting with each student daily, and the learning process is still rigorous. Jody Worth commented that the system provides for much accountability, that it is allowing teachers to connect with both students and parents, and that counselors are working with students. Chris Harth says that LOA is as well-positioned to award credit to students as any school in the State except for the current cyber schools which have been honing their process for over a decade.
6. Dr. Chris Harth gave an update on the strategic plan.
7. Dr. Tucker discussed making a new application for a statewide charter school for a grades 9 to 12 model.
8. Dr. Tucker discussed the AP summer institute put on by Milton. It teaches AP continuing education classes to 500 to 900 AP teachers. Because of Covid19, the process was looking for a virtual learning platform and picked LOA to handle that because of its advanced facilities. The process will be handled by New Greene Education, Inc., and all Greene County, and LOA teachers will be allowed to participate at a cost of roughly \$75.00 as opposed to \$750.00.
9. Dr. Tucker discussed a memorandum of understanding for software technology platforms with the Greene County Board of Education for several shared software education platforms, including Infinite Campus (Student Information System), Educators Handbook (Discipline Tracking), Branching Minds (Special Education), Softdocs (Financial archived document retrieval system), Canvas (Learning Management System).
10. Dr. Tucker discussed the PPP/SBA loan which has been applied for in connection with the Covid19 federal economic stimulus plan.
11. Dr. Tucker discussed a water softener for the high school building. The Board determined that it would not spend that money presently would review the need at a later date.
12. Dr. Tucker proposed an upgrade to the telephone system. The current system is twelve years old. The software is not well supported and updates are causing issues. Voicemail is not functioning properly and there is a potential safety issue in a malfunctioning phone system. He proposed investigating an upgrade.
13. After discussion of the above matters, the following motions were made by Kim Larkin, seconded by Byron Lombard and approved unanimously:
 - a. Recommendation that the LOA Board of Governors revise the LOA lottery policy to allow for electronic communication of the lottery timeline deadlines for submitting required documentation now provided by schoolmint;
 - b. Recommendation that the LOA Board of Governors approved the submission of the charter petition to the state charter school commission to open that 2021-2022 school year (FY'22).

- c. Recommendation allowing New Greene Education to use Lake Oconee Academy facilities for the express purpose of transmitting the AP Summer Institute both synchronously and asynchronously.
- d. Recommendation that a new telephone system be researched, purchased and installed in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

Chairman Mark Lipscomb commended the administration and staff on the hard work they have done to keep the school up and running during the Covid19 pandemic, and their fine work in keeping ahead of the technological and operational curves.

H. Adjournment: There being no further business, Kim Larkin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Byron Lombard. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.