

Lake Oconee Academy Board of Governors

Regular Monthly Meeting

5:30 PM, Monday, August 7, 2023

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Michael Tompkins called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. on August 7, 2023. Michael Tompkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Meeting was held in the lower school cafeteria building.
- **Establishment of Quorum/Roll Call:** Governors, Michael Tompkins, Quincy Chaffin, Sarah Peacock, Jennifer Vaughan and Richard Schmidt were in attendance. Kristina Jaskyte Bahr was absent. Also in attendance was Dr. Brad Bowling and Dr Tucker.
- B. **Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Jennifer Vaughan made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2023 special called meeting. Motion seconded by Sarah Peacock. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Finance Report:** David Faunce with Prestige, gave the June 2023 financial reports. A motion was made by Jennifer Vaughan to approve the report as information. Seconded by Sarah Peacock. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. **Foundation Report:** Dr. Bowling gave the Foundation Report. On August 25, 2023, the first football home game will have a tailgate party honoring Dr. Tucker; on Monday, August 28, 2023, is the Tees for Titans Golf fundraiser with a shotgun start. It is nearly sold out. On September 6, 2023, the parent-teacher organization will have its first meeting of the year. Finally, October 6, 2023 will be the homecoming game with Lieut. Gov. Bert Jones as guest of honor.
- E. **Executive Director Report:**
1. Dr. Brad Bowling reported that the waiting list has 355 students, 28 of which are priority students.
 2. Dr. Bowling outlined the Cognia Accreditation process overview. The school will be going through the reaccreditation process in the coming months.
 3. Dr. Bowling went through selected responses to the Greene County Board of Education's response to the charter petition. After discussion, Richard Schmidt made a motion to direct the Charter Renewal Committee to finalize the response and deliver it back to the Greene County School District as soon as possible. Seconded by Jennifer Vaughan. The motion carried unanimously.
- F. **Education Report:** Dr. Bowling presented the LOA Alternative Education Program, a program to provide education to LOA students, outside the normal school population, which are having behavioral or attendance issues and whom cannot attend the Greene County Public Schools Alternative Education Program. After discussion, Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the establishment of the program. The motion was seconded by Sarah Peacock. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

G. Public Comment: Todd Ciavola addressed the Board to propose a change in LOA's Bylaws to establish elections for Board seats to be voted on by school parents. He clarified that Board seats need not be limited to parents, but that *voting for the seats* was limited to parents. He presented an informal survey, which had 66 responses, that showed that 58% of those responding wanted a parent elected board. He proposed that having a parent elected board would give better participation opportunities to parents, that parents were struggling to be heard in their concerns by the Board, and that the Board was not addressing parent's complaints.

Dr. Otho Tucker addressed the Board. Based on his experience in both the National and the Georgia Charter School Association Boards, as well as managing the North Carolina Charter School State Division, he stated numerous studies which showed that when tried parent elected boards were inefficient and ineffective. The State of Wisconsin had resumed utilizing appointed boards after 3 years. In general, he stated that parent elected boards have not worked across the nation and would not work at LOA.

H. Closed Session: there was no Closed Session.

I. Adjournment: There being no further business, Jennifer Vaughan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sarah Peacock. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.