

**Lake Eola Charter School
Board of Directors
Minutes
For March 23, 2009**

Members Present: Charles Frederick, Laura Sundberg, *Jordan Clark, *Stacey Cole, Pete Clarke, Eric Lindborg, Tim Johnson, Mary McCormick, Jenifer Davis, Lisa Early, Ronnie DeNoia *Initially by phone until arrival at the meeting.

Absent: Deanna Guiseppi

Visitors: Ed Langdon, Sharon Morell

Meeting commenced at 4:12 p.m. & adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Motion to approve February 2009 minutes was unanimous.

Old Business:

Building: C.Frederick passed out a Lease Term Proposal. C.Frederick reported the Downtown Baptist Church seemed motivated to move forward. L.Sundberg requested that the Foundation BOD guarantees funding would be available if needed. R.DeNoia said she would go back to the Foundation BOD with her request. C.Frederick reported he spoke with Susan Morris & she would agree to a one year lease extension if LECS desired. Discussion held concerning various terms, money & down payment issues. E.Lindborg motioned to authorize C.Frederick to move forward with this lease proposal with the added language. P.Clarke seconded. Vote unanimous.

Review/Revision of BOD By-laws: J.Clark reported there are issues with various BOD terms according to the By-laws. Discussion held concerning terms of BOD members. J.Davis motioned to extend C.Frederick's term from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. L.Sundberg seconded. Vote unanimous. J.Clark motioned to extend T.Johnson's term from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010. J.Davis seconded. Vote unanimous. L.Sundberg motioned to extend L.Early's term from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009. T.Johnson seconded. Vote unanimous. L.Sundberg motioned to appoint to the BOD M.McCormick as the Faculty Representative from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009. L.Early seconded. Vote unanimous. Further By-law review by committee for future presentation to BOD.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report, moved to next month.

Policy: J.Clark provided R.DeNoia with clarifications concerning the Retention & Destruction Policy reviewed last month. Discussion held. T.Johnson motioned to accept the Retention & Destruction Policy with stated modifications. L.Sundberg seconded. Vote unanimous. L.Early will investigate the availability of someone to give a staff training.

New Business:

Financials: Ed Langdon reported the month looked good, showing a positive cash flow of \$9,100.00 for the month & \$39,000.00 for the year. T.Johnson motioned to approve the February 2009 financials. L.Sundberg seconded. Vote unanimous.

Faculty Report: M.McCormick reported grades 2nd-5th have an upcoming performance by Tom Womick as Johnnie Appleseed. Mr. Madewell recently attended an out of state science convention & all FCAT testing is completed.

Directors Report:

- Foundation – \$93,220.00, to date.
- Annual Lottery – Over 500 entrants, everything went smoothly, thank you to S.Morell.
- School Survey – Passed out results collected & reviewed by SAC. Overall very positive results, some the highest ever & will be reported to parents in the next newsletter.
- School Activities – Oration competition is coming up in April for grades 4th-8th. 8th graders are off to Washington the second week in April & thanks to E.Lindborg & the Kiwanis Club we are participating in their track meet at Boone HS. A Cyber Safety program & a Human Sexuality program for 5th & 8th grade students are also coming up.
- High School – Currently have 18 applications, 9 from LECS students & 9 general public students. Will start with 9th grade only, up to 25 students & add a grade per year. Had a meeting with Dr.Chandler (OCPS School Choice Director) & Dr. Chandler expressed concern over issue of student diversity & advised another round of advertising to potential minority students. Questions were asked by Board members if financially the HS could open with only 18 students & the answer was yes as the FTE & Categorical funding is higher for HS. Financially the breakpoint is at 15 to move forward. Potential staff has been interviewed & would consist of 4 part-time positions. Current LECS staff, Mr. Madewell & Mr. Hughes, would also teach at HS as a 5th period & be paid a pro-rated amount for the class. Discussion held concerning the priority commitment to LECS from those two staff members, their ability to add to their schedules effectively & costs involved. Discussion held outlining the typical day/week, with classes Monday-Thursday & internships on Friday. Teachers would be assigned to specific students to monitor & assess their internships; much like a work-study program meeting no less than monthly & an evaluation tool will be used to assess student progress weekly. Discussion held concerning hold harmless, liability issues for students as well as LECS & HS. J.Dierking has approved the internship agreement between the students & the entities. There will also be a parent agreement & each entity will provide a hold harmless to school. Various options for space include the Beardall Center, LECS Spanish room, Downtown Baptist Church 3rd floor, room at St.Lukes, & possible school closure sites. After meeting with Dr.Chandler, & speaking with C.Frederick & J.Dierking, it was determined that the HS needs its own 501(c)3 designation & BOD. This will allow for acquiring significant funding that would not be available otherwise. Also, issues at a HS level are different such as discipline & curriculum & the mission/vision of LECS & HS are not the same. HS Board will consist of community members specific to areas of need such as the Arts, Technology, etc. Passed out an outline of HS Board & specifics concerning reasons for separate entity. 501(c)3 application & Bylaws are in progress & there is still time to apply for start-up funding & would like a LECS BOD member to serve as a liaison between the two Boards. L.Sundberg stated she agreed it was a good idea to have a separate HS Board but does not want to strain LECS teacher or administration resources. S.Cole asked how LECS teachers could adequately plan for their classes here if they gave up their planning periods to teach at the HS as their primary responsibility is to LECS. R.DeNoia replied teachers main planning does not occur during actual school day. She stated there would be glitches initially & everyone would have to be flexible. The immediate goal is that students are being educated & that they are safe & happy. E.Lindborg said he felt everyone understands & wants the HS to

be successful. L.Sundberg stated she felt staff is professional enough to not work on HS items during LECS time. L.Early asked if OCPS Board has to re-approve the HS if a separate entity is created. R.DeNoia said no. Discussion held & BOD in agreement that a separate HS configuration is best, no vote required.

- BOD Phone Calls To Parents – Please complete outstanding calls.

Fundraising: L.Sundberg reported she spoke with a parent in Ms. O’Leary’s classroom that would be interested in helping to fundraise & would like to expand the committee to a larger group that would include parents. Discussion held. J.Davis motioned to allow the Fundraising Committee to offer parents & other community members the opportunity to join. L.Early seconded. Vote unanimous.

Lottery: S.Cole stated she would like to discuss the lottery procedures & felt that they were not specifically noted. R.DeNoia said the procedures are specific & are noted as BOD policy. L.Early stated that she felt very strongly BOD members should not bring their personal interests to the Board table & that it could be very difficult for Board members to leave such issues at the door such as being a parent of a student at LECS & a Board member. She referenced board training delivered by Margaret Linnane last year which advised that no parents of students should sit on the Board. L.Early also stated from personal experience as a Board member & LECS parent it can be extremely difficult to advocate for your child as you must always be aware of your responsibility as a Board member & your interaction with the teaching staff. L.Sundberg suggested tabling any further discussion until the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour. BOD members in agreement & discussion to continue next month.

Mission Statement: Moved to next month.

OCPS School Closures: L.Sundberg stated it looks as though Hillcrest & Kaley will be closed & available. L.Early reported the City is concerned with empty shuttered buildings & would like to see them occupied. Her concern is that OCPS would not sell outright at this time but could come back to sell later when economy is better or reclaim property should the need arise for another school. Discussion held concerning feasibility of relocation to either property if available. L.Sundberg would like to send a formal request to OCPS Board to state the interest of LECS in pursuing available school sites such as Kaley or Hillcrest. J.Davis asked how that might be perceived by DBC. BOD agreed they have a duty to pursue all other options. T.Johnson motioned to have R.DeNoia compose & send a formal request to the OCPS Board as soon as possible stating our interest in pursuing available school sites with copies to all OCPS Board members, Commissioner Sheehan, Commissioner Diamond & Mayor Dyer. S.Cole seconded. Vote unanimous.

Email: R.DeNoia reported that J.Dierking stated that the emails that have transpired over the last few weeks concerning the Lottery & By-laws are to be made part of the minutes of this meeting. C.Frederick stated that he also received that information from J.Dierking. Please see attached.

Counsel: L.Sundberg questioned as to whether or not J.Dierking had any expertise in educational law or what her specialty is. R.DeNoia said she was not aware of her particular specialty but can attest to the fact that over the last eleven years that she has generously been advising the school & has spent countless hours & effort on behalf of LECS, around \$80,000.00 in billable hours. In addition, if there was an issue concerning an area of law that J.Dierking was

not familiar with she would always thoroughly research the topic before rendering an opinion. L.Sundberg asked for some examples of things J.Dierking has advised on. R.DeNoia said things like trip waivers, employment contracts, parent agreements, Sunshine law, a wide variety of things over the years. L.Sundberg stated that perhaps rather than expecting one person to handle all areas of law, LECS should investigate engaging other counsel as specific issues occur. R.DeNoia stated that she felt the timing of that suggestion was suspect. L.Sundberg inquired why & R.DeNoia stated that she felt that the suggestion of using other counsel was solely based upon the fact that J.Dierking had rendered some opinions that did not sit well with some of the BOD members over the last few weeks. L.Early stated that she has been a member of the Board for a number of years & neither the Board nor LECS has ever had any problems or issues arise from any of J.Dierking's rulings. She further stated that J.Dierking has basically performed her whole pro-bono career to benefit LECS & that she absolutely trusts her decisions completely & is very appreciative of her involvement. C.Frederick stated he has felt extremely confident over the years as to J.Dierking's ability to provide adequate legal counsel to the BOD & LECS. J.Davis said she thought L.Sundberg's question was a fair one that just wanted an explanation of J.Dierking's background. S.Cole stated that she does not have a frame of reference with J.Dierking & some background would be helpful.