

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**July 26, 2021 - 6:30 pm**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Via Teleconference**

- A. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Mr. Wiley.
- B. Prayer**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Approval of the General Meeting Agenda** - A motion was made by Don Tatum to approve the meeting agenda. This was seconded by Barbara McIntyre. The agenda was approved without opposition from the Board.
- E. Adoption of Previous Minutes** – Following a motion made by Don Tatum and seconded by Barbara McIntyre, the minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with the stated correction.
- F. Roll Call**
  - a) Present Members**
    - i. Barbara McIntyre
    - ii. Pamela Stewart
    - iii. Robert Wiley
    - iv. Ed Watley
    - v. Clara Lewis
    - vi. Don Tatum
    - vii. Hollis Downs
  - b) Absent Members**
    - i. Elizabeth Smith
    - ii. Eddie Robinson III
- G. Lincoln Prep “Showcase”** – No showcase.
- H. Public Comments** – Although the meeting was open to the public, no comments were made.
- I. Report of the Executive Director** –
  - a)** The budget is based on 701 students and so far, 703 applications have been accepted, with 476 of those being returning students. 672 students will be on Lincoln Prep campus and 31 will be in alternative placement at New Living Word. There are currently 37 seats available. Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12 are full and 17 people are on the waiting list for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - b)** The first day for students is August 16, 2021. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be located at New Living Word and 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be located on the main Lincoln Prep campus in Grambling. Supervisors and other 10-month staff reported to work last week to work on professional development and Special Education plans. Other staff will return to work on August 2.
  - c)** Last year, the budget was projected to have an ending balance of \$312k but is now \$601k. The 2021-22 budget ~~ed~~ projected eding an ending balance of \$716k which does not include additional federal funding that will be received.

- d) Mr. Ford will go to Baton Rouge this week to meet with the Carter Renewal Taskforce. Lincoln Prep got their renewal last year, but there is a concern about other schools who have not been able to obtain a letter grade. Mr. Ford will also advocate for high school students to be able to take college courses, as part of the College in High School Alliance.

**J. New Business –**

- a) Pamela Stewart moved to introduce the 2021-2022 budget. This was seconded by Ed Watley and the budget was introduced without opposition from the board. The resolution will be published in the Ruston Daily Leader. If any changes of 5% or more occur, the Board must be notified. The General Fund is currently \$115k over and does not include additional ESSER funds. An ending balance of around \$716k is expected, which is right at 10%. This exceeds the State's "excellent" percentage of 7.5%. Mr. Ford discussed that, to continue receiving federal funds, the school must show that local and state funds are being utilized and maintained, which Lincoln Prep has achieved. The State requires that at least 70% of funding be spent on institutional costs. Lincoln Prep is at 82.6% this year. The special allocations in level 1 of the MFP meet all requirements. The budget has been emailed to all Board Members, who were encouraged to send any questions to Mr. Ford and Mr. Wiley. This will ensure that any necessary corrections can be made so that the document presented at the next meeting for approval will be accurate.
- b) Mr. Ford requested that the Board approve the Material Amendment to move the school to the permanent location. A change was made to the location of Pre-K and Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. Those grades will remain at the former property, while grades 1-12 move to the permanent location. Pamela Stewart moved to approve this. It was seconded by Ed Watley and approved without opposition from the Board.
- c) The Board was provided with the Executive Director's Offer Letter, including the salary increase for the coming school year. The Executive Director's salary is based on the Lincoln Parish pay schedule, which states that any 12-month employee completing an advanced degree will get a \$1,200 increase. The Offer Letter also includes the \$400 increase for all employees and the \$800 increase signed by the legislature. A motion was made by Ed Watley and seconded by Barbara McIntyre to approve this offer. It was approved without opposition from the Board.
- d) The Board was asked to approve the purchase of the Blakely property, which is 1.6 acres. Mr. Blakely originally purchased 2 lots that were proposed to be part of a subdivision. Lincoln Prep's attorney recommended purchasing the land from Mr. Blakely to avoid him requesting access across Lincoln Prep property in the future. Mr. Blakely agreed to sell the land for the same price per acre that Lincoln Prep paid for the surrounding land, which is close to \$8000. This additional land would bring the total acreage to almost 41 acres. A motion was made by Barbara McIntyre and seconded by Pamela Stewart. This was approved without opposition from the Board.
- e) The Board approved the 2021-22 meeting schedule. All meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month, except for Memorial Day, which will be changed to 5/23/2022. There will be no meeting in November. A motion was made by Don Tatum and

seconded by Barbara McIntyre. The meeting schedule was approved without opposition.

**K. Reports**

- a) **Financial** – Previously discussed
- b) **Alumni and Community Relations** – No report
- c) **Transportation and Facilities Update** – No Report
- d) **Education** – No Report

**L. Old Business**

- a) **LPSB Planned Teacher Bonuses** –
- b) Lincoln Prep elected not to move forward with last year’s bonuses. These bonuses were based on the previous year’s tax receipts, and bonuses have not been put in for this year. Lincoln Prep is looking at the final number and tax receipts to give bonuses later in the year. The Academic Leadership is looking towards changes in the handbook, which would include giving bonuses based on attendance. This has been in place in Bienville Parish and has worked well. More information on this matter is forthcoming.
- c) **Construction Update** – Due to the rising price of construction materials, the estimated cost for the new building is \$22,280,739. The cost was initially around \$210 per square foot but is now around \$260 per square foot. This amount includes everything except the classrooms for grades 1-2. Funds have been allocated for all other necessities, with \$1.2 million remaining in the contingency fund. As groundwork, foundation, etc., begins, the crew will work on the entire building as if they intend to complete the entire thing. If it is decided that Lincoln Prep cannot fund the 1-2 grade wing, they will complete as much as possible so that it can be completed later without taking on major cost. This wing was included in the original budget. However, due to the rising cost of materials, it began to look like the funds would not cover it. The contractors were asked to remove that wing from the last round of designs. After discussion, construction will begin on that wing and alternative funding methods will be explored, if necessary. If costs continue to rise and the funding is not available, those grades will remain on the current Lincoln Prep campus until they are able to move to the permanent location. The city of Grambling has agreed to assist with alleviating some of the sewage costs for the school but are unable to assist further than that. The building was originally projected to be constructed of prefabricated metal, but there is currently a 40-50 week waiting period for this material. The contractors have recommended using concrete blocks, which would be more durable. The cost for these blocks could be similar to the current cost of prefabricated metal. More information on this is forthcoming. Alternative options for funding the football stadium are also being explored. Sustainability Partners (previously considered to fund the new school campus) are being considered to fund and construct the stadium and field house, then charge Lincoln Prep a utility fee. This is included in the 5-year budgeted forecast. Lincoln Prep would have the option to purchase the stadium and field house later. The Department of Transportation requires that the school driveway be at the furthest East point, which is on property that does not belong to Lincoln Prep. Discussions with the landowner to grant Lincoln Prep access to the driveway have not been fruitful. Lincoln Prep must either be granted access to the property, purchase the property (0.2 acres), or the City will take the property by

~~imminent~~eminent domain. Before the City can do this, the landowner must decline an offer to purchase. Pamela Stewart moved to make a purchase offer on this 0.2-acre property. This was seconded by Barbara McIntyre and approved without opposition from the Board.

**d) Relationship between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University –**

There are no recent changes to the relationship between the Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University. Lincoln Prep will use the cafeteria at GSU, as approved by the Court.

**M. Next meeting** – The next Board Meeting is August 30, 2021. The Public Budget Hearing will be held at 6:00 PM with the regular Board Meeting immediately following.

**N. Announcement** – No announcements.

**O. Executive Session** – No session.

**P. Adjournment** – Mr. Downs moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Pamela Stewart. With nothing left to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.