

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 13, 2021 – 6:30 PM
Via Teleconference

- A. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Robert Wiley.
- B. Prayer**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Approval of the General Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed Watley and seconded by Clara Lewis to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved without opposition from the Board.
- E. Adoption of Previous Minutes** – A motion was made by Barbara McIntyre to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. This was seconded by Ed Watley and the minutes were adopted without opposition from the Board.
- F. Roll Call**
 - a) Present Members**
 - i. Barbara McIntyre
 - ii. Pamela Stewart
 - iii. Ed Watley
 - iv. Clara Lewis
 - v. Hollis Downs
 - vi. Robert Wiley
 - b) Absent Members**
 - i. Elizabeth Smith
 - ii. Don Tatum
 - iii. Eddie Robinson III
- G. Public Comments** – Although the meeting was open to the public, no members of the public were present to comment.
- H. Report of the Executive Director** –
 - a) Enrollment:** Current enrollment is 649 students with 48 of those in alternative placement at New Living Word. The 2022 open enrollment period will be 3/21/22-4/29/22 with the Lottery held on 5/5/22.
 - b) 2021-22 School Year:** Kindergarten through 2nd grade classes are being held at New Living Word. Grades 3-8 are at Calvary Baptist Church and grades 9-12 are at the main Lincoln Prep campus. Meals are cooked at the GHS cafeteria and delivered to all locations.
 - c) Partnerships:** Mr. Ford has been serving on the Board for the Ross-Lynn Charitable Foundation for about 1 year. This foundation seeks to encourage children to be active in arts and outdoor activities. Lincoln Prep has done several things with the Foundation, including an outdoor P.E. class, a writing workshop, and an outdoor event at Lincoln Parish Park where children were able to participate in archery, duck calling, and putting up tents. Several other activities are in the works and more information is forthcoming. Wrldinvsn is an apparel company that began in New Orleans and is now located in

Ruston. Lincoln Prep is planning to partner with them to supply some of the school uniforms and athletic uniforms. Lincoln Prep is also looking into a long-term partnership with them and discussing naming rights for the stadium at the new school facility. They are also discussing partnering for an entrepreneurship class for Lincoln Prep students. There are some fundraising events in the works and a “Wrldinvsn Day” is being scheduled at Lincoln Prep sometime in mid-March. More information on this is forthcoming.

- d) **Athletics:** the football team made it to the 2nd round of playoffs, finishing the year with a record of 7-5. The boys’ basketball team is currently 8-2 for the year. The girls’ team is in a rebuilding phase and is currently 0-4 but this is expected to improve as they learn and grow. The junior high boys’ and girls’ basketball teams are doing well, also. The new taekwondo team has been recognized by the AAU society and will attend their first tournament in February. The taekwondo team is geared towards students that do not already participate in an 8th period extracurricular activity.
 - e) **Construction updates:** Board Members have received a copy of the construction schedule and a copy of approved subcontractors. The expected completion dates are as follows: Elementary Wing 1 – August 2022, Cafeteria, Elementary Wing 2, and high school wing – September 2022, Administration and middle school wing – October 2022, Gymnasium – January 2023. The gymnasium is expected to be completed except for final paint and bleachers by December 2022. Mr. Ford is hoping to have all students at the new campus by the 2nd semester of next school year. He plans to have a soft opening with a smaller number of students prior to the official opening, but that is contingent on the completion dates. Underground utilities at the new campus are completed and concrete pouring will begin this month. The golf course property has been sold by the original owner. The new owner will donate the property to Lincoln Prep so that the driveway work can begin. The city of Grambling has agreed to accept the first section of the driveway as a public street. Mr. Ford added that the new campus is designed to hold all the necessary vehicles so there should not be vehicles blocking the entrance or lined up on the highway.
 - f) **Grambling location:** The electrician expects to have the electricity on within the next few days once the Fire Marshal has given the final approval. The latest update is that sprinklers will not be required. The chief architect and Fire Marshal are planning to meet to finalize this. Once this happens, the Grambling location will be used for 2nd through 12th grade classes.
- I. **New Business**
- a) **Complaint from parent** – A written complaint was received from a parent this week. This complaint was from the mother of a student involved in a physical altercation on a school bus in which another student repeatedly hit him with tuna fish. She stated that her son was being bullied and only defended himself from the other student. She alleges that the bus driver used physical force towards her son following the altercation. She also stated that a video is being sent between students of her son involved in a fight on campus, which is causing him to be teased and bullied by other students. She reports dissatisfaction with the way the other students are behaving and the way the matters are being handled. Mr. Ford stated that the incident has been investigated and the

video footage from the 5+ school bus cameras have been viewed. A response has been drafted for the parent, which states that her son was seen to be participating in tossing the packet of tuna fish back and forth on the school bus. Her son moved to the back of the bus briefly, then returned and initiated the altercation in question. Her son was determined to have not been defending himself but was found to be both the initiator and the aggressor in the altercation. The bus driver physically restrained the student to break up the fight, but no unnecessary physical force was observed. As a result of this altercation, the student has been suspended from school for 3 days and suspended from the bus for 5 days. The other student involved in the altercation received a 2-day suspension. Regarding the other video mentioned in the complaint, it was found to have been recording during football practice and the students were simply horseplaying. The school counselor will investigate concerns of bullying and will take any action necessary.

- b) Individuals banned from games** – Board Members have been provided with a letter regarding individuals banned from attending games due to repeatedly being involved in physical fights at athletic activities. These individuals include a Lincoln Prep student, 1 former student, and their mother. The letter states that they will not be permitted to attend home or away games for any Lincoln Prep sports. The letter was hand delivered to the mother at the oldest student’s expulsion hearing. A copy was also sent to the Grambling Police Department. If any of these individuals show up to a Lincoln Prep athletic activity, they will be removed by the police. Mr. Ford stated that the mother reports that her family has been attacked during all of the incidents and that none of the altercations have been their fault. Mr. Ford stated that the goal is to ensure the safety of the players and spectators at all sporting events, therefore, it is in the best interest of everyone for those individuals to no longer be permitted to attend. Counseling is being sought for the oldest daughter involved. She is currently placed in alternative school, as she is not permitted to return to the campus at this time.

J. Reports

- a) Financial** – The audit for the 2021 fiscal year has been completed with no negative findings. The audit will be presented after the beginning of the year. The finance department is preparing to send W2s, 1099s, etc. Megan stated that all budget items are in line with the expected numbers at this time. The fund balance will be updated after the new MFP is received in March. Megan reminded Board Members that the ending fund balance is lower than the desired number right now due to the upfront, one-time costs of the temporary campus location. Mr. Ford added that the fund balance ended up being slightly higher than what was originally projected.
- b) Alumni and Community Relations** – No report
- c) Transportation and Facilities Update** – No report
- d) Education** – Mr. Ford reviewed the evaluation tool and requested to have the title corrected from “Lincoln Prep” to “Lincoln Preparatory”. This has been sent to the Board Members for final approval, which is requested to be completed by 1/15/22. Once the document is finalized, Mr. Ford will complete a self-assessment, as well as having a meeting with the Board Members to complete their assessment. Mr. Downs reminded Mr. Wiley that a contract will need to be drafted for the Executive Director position after the evaluation has been completed.

K. Old Business

- a) **Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (LAPCS) Conference Report** – Lincoln Prep had 3 faculty members and 3 Board members present at the LAPCS conference in New Orleans. The Board members report that it was a great, informative conference. Mr. Ford has received inquiries regarding the requirements for Board members. He stated that there are currently no requirements, but most Board do have continuing education requirements for members. He urged Board members to consider these requirements moving forward.
- b) **Relationship between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University** – Lincoln Prep expected to be released from the court order by now but has not. The attorney has filed a motion to dismiss but the Justice Department requested that the motion be deferred until Louisiana Tech and AE Phillips file their status report, which is due in the next few days. Until then, Lincoln Prep is prohibited from using any GSU facilities except for the cafeteria. Lincoln Prep requested to use the GSU assembly center for home basketball games, but the Justice Department opposed it. The attorney filed a motion to appeal that, but a determination has not been made. GSU agreed to let Lincoln Prep use the facility if the court approves.

L. Future Meetings

- a) **Next meeting** – The next meeting will be January 31, 2022 at 6:30 PM with committees meeting at 6:00 PM, if needed.
- b) **Zoom versus in-person meetings** – Zoom meetings are permitted to continue as long as the Governor’s Emergency Declaration is in effect. However, the Board was encouraged to start making plans to return to in-person meetings soon. Once in-person meetings resume, anyone unable to attend in person may join via Zoom to listen but will not be counted as part of the quorum or allowed to vote on anything.

M. Announcement – Mr. Downs recommended reaching out formally to thank Jonesboro Hodge, Cedar Creek, Carroll High School, and Louisiana Tech their assistance and allowing Lincoln Prep to use their athletic facilities. Mr. Ford stated that a photograph was taken during a game at Louisiana Tech. This photo will be printed and made into a plaque to be given to the Athletic Department as a token of their appreciation. A Christmas social event will be held at Calvary on Friday at 1:00 PM. All Board members are invited to attend.

N. Executive Session – No session.

O. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Downs and seconded by Barbara McIntyre. With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.