

Minutes
Board of Directors
Grambling High Foundation
Regular Meeting
January 28, 2019 – 6:30 PM

- **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Dr. Copeland at 6:31 pm.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – Mr. Downs moved to adopt the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Wiley. The Board adopted the agenda without opposition.
- **Adoption of Previous Minutes** – Mr. Downs moved to adopt the previous minutes with the stated corrections. Mr. Tatum seconded this. The minutes were adopted without opposition.
- **Roll Call**
 - a) **Present**
 - Dr. Birdex Copeland
 - Hollis Downs
 - Don Tatum
 - Katrina Boden
 - Eddie Robinson III
 - Rhonda Pruitt
 - Robert Wiley
 - Rachel Johnson
- **Lincoln Prep “Showcase”** –
 - a) Lincoln Prep was presented with an award for Governance.
 - b) Megan Kenley was invited to join the La Association of School Officials Board of Directors. This board has approximately 500 members across the state but Mrs. Kenley is the first charter school official to be a member.
 - c) Mr. Downs discussed difficulties in the past regarding sports championships for public and private schools. He stated that Mr. Ford has presented solutions for these issues. Mr. Ford stated elaborated by saying that he has met with other schools on proposals for the coming years. These will allow 4A and 5A schools to resume having championships at the Superdome, but will not go into effect for 2 years. This will allow time for the contract to be discussed. Also, the Superdome Classic has been cut from 3 days to 2 days, which should save around \$200,000 per year.
 - d) Ms. Boden stated that she has been following Lincoln Prep on Facebook and commends everyone for the work that they are doing. She stated that she has been seeing great things happening with the students such as earning certificates through technical schools in the area. Mr. Copeland agreed and added that this gives more options for the students after graduation.
 - e) Mr. Downs stated that he attended the musical at the Dixie Theater in December. He stated that it was a full house and the show was great.
- **Public Comments** – Although the meeting was open to the public, no comments were made.

- **Report of the Executive Director –**

- a) Mr. Ford stated that, although changes to the dashboard were minimal, enrollment of Caucasian students is up a bit currently. Also, a few students have been offered enrollment and should start soon. The final enrollment count is expected to be 551-552. There are currently 96 students on the waiting list.
- b) Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams are doing well. As of now, they should both have a first round playoff game. Although the boys' team lost their last game to Homer, they are still in 2nd place in the district. Regular season ends February 8th and if the boys' team wins out, they will be district champions. Mr. Tatum inquired as to where the Arcadia game will be held. Mr. Ford stated that it is still being discussed at this time but there is concern about moving it to another location. There has also been discussion about moving it and playing on Saturday instead of Friday. Mr. Ford expressed concern about reaching capacity and having to turn people away if it is held in our gym. Lincoln Prep was scheduled to play in the Willis Reed Classic but was informed that they had to sponsor the event, as well. We agreed to run the concession stand and made about \$1500 profit from it. Middle and Elementary school will be starting baseball, softball, and track soon.
- c) The elementary will be participating in a tribute to Eddie Robinson for his 100th birthday.
- d) The 7th grade students will be going to Shreveport soon to tour BPCC.
- e) The Speech and Debate team will compete this weekend at Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans.
- f) Lincoln Prep will host our first robotics tournament this month. Last year, the school received and competitive grant to set up the tournament contingent on one being hosted by the school.
- g) The gifted and talented students will be holding the state's first Rubik' Cube challenge in May.
- h) Last month, Mrs. Thompson took the Advanced Environmental Science class to Colorado to participate in a week long outdoor classroom. They will do some fundraising to offset some of the \$6000 cost. Ms. Boden stated that we should do more to get news coverage on these events.
- i) Repairs to the gym have been completed. Only cosmetic repairs remain, such as painting the stage. The Art teachers are working on artwork for the gym and GSU stated that they may have curtains to be donated to use for the stage.
- j) The report from DOJ's visit has been delayed due to the government shutdown. DOJ has asked for a 35 day extension, as that is the number of days they were affected by the shutdown. Board members expressed concern regarding the requirement to limit African American student enrollment. DOJ is reportedly not using consistent criteria at all schools to determine the race of the students. For instance, although according to federal law, Hispanic students count towards Caucasian enrollment, DOJ is not going by this. A letter was sent inquiring about this and we are awaiting response. Ms. Boden asked and Mr. Ford confirmed that the family has the opportunity to choose their which race they identify as. Ms. Boden also asked if the school can consider them Caucasian if

they select Hispanic with no race. Mr. Ford stated that he is working on that and more information will be forthcoming. He is asking that the race criteria for enrollment be the same as Delta Charter, which would allow for only 2 races: black or white. Board members suggested approaching this with the court system as racism by the government. Mr. Ford stated that their current argument in court is that Lincoln Prep was originally determined to be a failing school but have proven that untrue and the education of African American students turned away is potentially harmed due to the fact that they may have to attend a lower graded school.

- k) Concern arose regarding multiple charter schools in the region being closed recently. Mr. Ford reassured Board members that Lincoln Prep is not at risk, as those schools were closed for performance issues and financial mismanagement.
 - l) LAPCS training will be held the first week of February in Baton Rouge. A meeting for Type 2 charter schools with Superintendent John White will also be held on February 13th in Baton Rouge. Members who wish to attend are asked to let Mr. Ford know so that it can be set up.
 - m) The Johns Hopkins Redesign Cohort is still ongoing. Ms. Colvin and Ms. Miller are in Baton Rouge at this time working on finalizing everything, as the final submission is due this week. The state selected 31 schools to be a part of the redesign run by Johns Hopkins University. In order to be selected, it had to be a failing school. Although Lincoln Prep is no longer a failing school, we are permitted to remain in the program for the duration since we were a failing school when we applied. We are hoping that this program will provide additional pathways for students after graduation as well as increasing capacity of staff to make the school better.
 - n) Lincoln Prep has about 10 events scheduled in an effort to increase business for the school. These events are a meet and greet type with food and drinks served. Kids and parents that live in the area are invited to talk about the school.
 - o) Mr. Ford commended Dr. Pruitt on her assistance with a disciplinary issue at the school recently. The family of the student involved, who is close with Dr. Pruitt, reached out to her in an effort to resolve the issue. It did require a hearing but we were able to resolve it without expulsion.
- **Committee Structure and Meeting Schedules** – There was no discussion. Dr. Copeland reminded members to inform him if a committee meeting is needed so he can inform the public.
 - **Reports and/or Issues**
 - a) **Presentation of 2017-2018 Audit** – The audit results were presented by John Goodwin via telephone. Board members were provided with paper copies. Mr. Goodwin stated that the current assets decreased some, which is normal. Equipment and Furniture totals \$14,390, which is a little lower than prior years but not out of the normal. Current liabilities and accounts payable are typical for schools and consistent with the prior year. Mr. Goodwin suggested trying to pay on a more timely basis, as to have less accrued at the end of the year. The amount of income or loss carried forward from the prior year totals \$334,759, which is a slight increase from \$268,000 the prior year, but this is good. The statement of activity includes the income statement and revenues which are broken

down in detail on the report. The largest of these is the MFP funding increase from 2017. Federal and state grants for Title 1 were grouped together and increased since 2017. The food service reimbursement also increased and is expected to fluctuate based on enrollment. The athletic revenue almost doubled from the prior year. Part of the MFP funding was classified as other income in previous years but is now in its own category. Expenses are broken down into program services (school) and management (administration). Total program services and expenditures increased while general expenditures decreased, still giving an overall total increase. Change in net assets is a positive change from -\$31,000 last year to \$66,506 this year. Depreciation expenses totaled \$79,871. The statement of cash flow shows how cash was used throughout the year with some noncash items such as accounts receivable factored in. The year started with cash at \$401,000 and only decreased to \$360,000 at the end. The concentrations of revenue and accounts receivable compares closely to the prior year and is also similar with other charter schools that Mr. Goodwin has audited. Overall, there were no negative findings for this audit. Also, negative findings from the previous year were resolved. Of the 2 procedures required by the legislative auditor, neither produced negative findings. Mrs. Johnson expressed concern that the report did not include a disclosure regarding the DOJ lawsuit. Although Mr. Goodwin stated that, based on his experience and opinion, the disclosure was not needed, Mrs. Johnson remained adamant that the disclosure should be included. After the report was completed, Mr. Downs asked what attributed to the increase in athletic revenue. Mr. Ford will look further into this and respond accordingly but believes some of the increase was because middle school games were added. Mr. Downs also asked if the cost of maintenance and repairs is expected to decrease once the school has a new building and Mr. Ford concurred.

- b) Acceptance of 2017-2018 Audit** – Mr. Wiley moved to accept the audit report. This was seconded by Mr. Tatum and accepted by the board without opposition.
- c) Education and Personnel** – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) Finance / Financial Report** – Megan Kenley presented the financial report. She stated that revenue is about 46% of what was budgeted and that we are awaiting the MFP budget letter for the February 1st count, which should be provided by March. Mr. Ford stated that he is expecting about 50 more students than the last count. Expenses are slightly higher than expected at 48.5% but we are still waiting for some reimbursements for Title 2 funding. EEF funding will be paid in March/April. SEA funds are paid monthly and we should receive additional funding based on the student count. The food service is profitable each month, bringing in approximately \$6000 on a good month and \$5000 on a short month (holiday season). Salaries and benefits are the largest portion of the budget and are both lower than expected at 44.8% and 44.2%, respectively. The Line of Credit was used in December for \$25,000 but was repaid after a few days. Megan expects to be able to provide a new budget projection for the April meeting after receiving the MFP budget letter. Mrs. Johnson asked that Megan include a schedule in the report to show what student count the funds are based on. Mrs. Johnson moved to

accept the financial report as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Wiley and accepted without opposition of the board.

- e) **Facilities and Transportation** – Nothing to report.
- f) **Alumni and Community Relations** – Nothing to report.
- **Old Business**
 - a) **MOU between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University** – Nothing to report.
- **New Business** – Mr. Downs discussed the open seat on the Board. He stated that he, along with the Executive Director and legal counsel has met with Ruston attorney Forest Mogege regarding joining the Board. Mr. Mogege is a public defender in juvenile court and deals heavily with truancy. Mr. Downs proposed that he be put up for election into the Board at the February meeting. Mr. Ford added that having an attorney on the board is a requirement and it will increase diversity.
- **Next Meeting** – The next meeting is February 25, 2019 with committees meeting at 6:00 pm if necessary. The Board will meet immediately following at 6:30 pm.
- **Announcements** – Mr. Ford stated surrounding parishes have cancelled school for the following day due to inclement weather. It is likely that Lincoln Prep will follow suit, but to reduce confusion, he is awaiting Superintendent Mike Milstead to make a decision regarding Lincoln Parish public schools.
- **Executive Session** – No session.
- **Adjournment** – A motion was made by Mr. Downs to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Boden. With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.