

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**January 31, 2022 – 6:30 PM**  
**Via Teleconference**

- A. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Robert Wiley.
- B. Prayer**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Approval of the Meeting Agenda** – A motion was made by Pamela Stewart and seconded by Hollis Downs to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved without opposition from the Board.
- E. Adoption of Previous Minutes** – A motion was made by Pamela Stewart to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting with the stated correction. 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. Hollis Downs
    - v. Robert Wiley
    - vi. Don Tatum
  - b) Absent Members**
    - i. Clara Lewis
    - ii. Elizabeth Smith
    - 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) Current enrollment is 642 with 47 students in alternative placement. Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes are currently at New Living Word, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade are at the main campus, and 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade are virtual. The enrollment period for the 2022-23 school year will be 3/21/22 – 4/29/22 with the lottery being held on 5/5/22. Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade have been in quarantine over the past few weeks due to Covid exposure. Some positive tests came as a result of the Safe Schools program, a program offering compensation to individuals enrolling to be tested for Covid weekly. This program pays \$25 for the first test and \$10 for each additional test.
  - b) Athletics: The boys’ basketball team is currently 19-8 and ranked #4 in class 1A. The girls’ basketball team is 3-13 but is improving. All players on the girls’ team are first time starters except for one.
  - c) Construction: The construction crew is scheduled to start pouring slabs this week if the weather permits it. They will also begin paving driveways and the front parking lot. The curbs have been placed, including one on the public access road to the golf course. Mr.

Ford stated that Lincoln Builders will have the curb cut to allow driveway access after the asphalt is poured. Electrical work is complete in 12 of the 13 buildings at the temporary campus. Entergy is planning to connect the electricity this week. The Fire Marshal requested to have one cafeteria window converted to a door and extend the fire alarm system into the cafeteria due to the ability to hold a large number of students at once.

#### I. New Business

- a) **Cash Management and Investment Policy** – Board members were provided with an adaptation of the policy drafted by LAPCS, which states that the funds being maintained by Charter Schools must be protected by their banking facility. Louisiana National Bank has issued a letter of credit for Lincoln Prep that secures accounts that are above FDIC limits. Pamela Stewart moved to adopt this policy. It was seconded by Mr. Downs and approved by the Board without opposition.
- b) **New Line of Credit** – A letter was provided to Louisiana National Bank showing the current funds for Lincoln Prep. A line of credit for \$200,000 was requested based on those funds. Those funds will be [available](#) while awaiting grant reimbursement from the state and paid off once reimbursement is received. Louisiana National Bank agreed to provide a \$250,000 line of credit. A motion was made by Mr. Downs to give Mr. Ford the authority to sign [to](#) obtain the line of credit. This was seconded by Pamela Stewart and approved by the Board with no opposition.
- c) **TAPS Program** – This program helps to build a partnership between the police, schools, and community to bridge the gap between students and police officers. Lincoln Prep and the Grambling Police Department wish to participate in this program to teach young students how to appropriately handle situations with police. A grant will be used to fund the program and pay police officers and Lincoln Prep faculty who participate, as well as offering a financial incentive to students who participate. The program will be done at the end of the school day, after athletic programs, and will be geared towards at risk students, particularly young men. The Department of Justice has asked Lincoln Prep to disperse the grant funds, which total around \$215,000 for the 3-year program. Mr. Ford will research further but is unsure if the school will receive any additional funds for this program but any faculty participating will be compensated. The SRO will be involved so further permission from parents should not be necessary. Barbara McIntyre moved to approve participation in this program and for Lincoln Prep to manage the funds. This was seconded by Mr. Downs and approved without opposition.

#### J. Reports

- a) **Financial** – Revenue is just under 50% and Lincoln Prep is still awaiting the March MFP adjustment for enrollment. Expenses are right at 50% with a 4% variance totaling about \$350,000. This will balance out with the MFP adjustment. Approximately \$2.5 million in ~~Federal~~ [federal](#) grants were received this year. The January request for quarter 2 was \$571,000. The fund balance is currently \$642,000 but is having to float the federal amounts awaiting reimbursement. Due to this, a \$200,000 line of credit was requested to assist with cash flow while awaiting reimbursement (see New Business above). Reimbursement requests are being done monthly instead of quarterly but are contingent on the State reimbursing in a timely manner. Reimbursement time has not

slowed down much, but the grant reimbursement has increased significantly, from \$750,000 last year. Mr. Ford added that Covid grants totaled around \$1.6 million. That money was issued to allow schools to open and provide learning opportunities for students during the pandemic. Some of these funds were used to hire personnel that will be needed at the new campus. Those staff members can work now, allowing for smaller classes and allowing one paraprofessional per teacher.

- b) **Alumni and Community Relations** – No report
- c) **Transportation and Facilities Update** – No report
- d) **Education** – No report

#### K. Old Business

- a) **Construction Update** – There has been discussion about having Sustainability Partners build the athletic facility and field house, then charge Lincoln Prep to use it. The interest rate on this was higher than expected, so other options are being explored. Someone involved in the Bond project suggested requesting the funds from the Bond Commission to build those facilities without using Sustainability Partners. The maximum Bond amount was originally calculated at \$39 million based on the financials at that time. Lincoln Prep decided to only borrow \$30 million to ensure that the process was not delayed, and the construction process could begin quickly. The process to borrow the additional funds would be much shorter now and the debt coverage limits would still be met. Mr. Ford plans to gather more information from both the Bond Commission and Sustainability Partners to present and discuss at the next Board meeting. Mr. Ford added that the surface of the football field would need to be replaced approximately every 10 years and the layer underneath the turf would need to be replaced every 30 years. This would cost approximately \$600,000 - \$1 million and the plan would be to ask the Board to approve \$100,000 per year to cover that cost. The athletic facility would include an 8-lane track. All construction is being done under Lincoln Builders, regardless of the funding source. Lincoln Builders will meet with vendors and decide based on prices, quality, etc.
- b) **Desegregation Case Update** – Lincoln Prep’s attorney prepared 3 affidavits to be provided as evidence to the Court. This should be the final step to get dismissal from the lawsuit. Coach Hall will sign an affidavit discussing what has been done with athletics. President Gallot will sign one stating that Lincoln Prep has not used any GSU facilities. Mr. Ford will sign one stating that Lincoln Prep has remained compliant with all aspects of the court order and that he agrees with the other 2 affidavits.
- c) **Relationship between Grambling High Foundation and Grambling State University** – Mr. Ford and Mr. Hall plan to look at items remaining at GSU to determine what will be kept and what will be disposed of, including some cafeteria equipment that was left.

#### L. Future Meetings

- a) **Next meeting** – The next meeting will be February 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM with committees meeting at 6:00 PM, if needed.
- b) **Zoom versus in-person meetings** – Virtual meetings were approved due to the public emergency related to Covid. Once that emergency order is lifted, in-person meetings will resume to ensure compliance with Public Meeting Laws.

#### M. Announcement – No announcements.

**N. Executive Session** – No session.

**O. Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by McIntyre and seconded by Stewart. With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.