

Board Meeting 3/17/25

Zoom Meeting ID: 874 6332 5544

Zoom Passcode: 807397

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Questions about February's minutes

- Bishop Tolbert – Do you have another presentation about the insurance plan?
 - Dr. Mitchell – No sir, I've not talked to Ms. Slaughter who works with the insurance negotiations. I'll try to get her on the phone and see if there's a deadline we're pushing up against.
- Bishop Tolbert – In the minutes there was a request from Mr. Allen about the production, but I don't see that request in this week's board docs. Do you know if there was actually a request?
 - Dr. Mitchell – From my understanding, he's revising it so it'll be presented at the April meeting.
- Bishop Tolbert – I don't see the bid from Waste Management or Jim's Disposal in the Board docs and I think we need to make a decision on that. So we, at some point, need to come up with what we are going to do with waste management.

First Motion: Motion to approve February's minutes.

-TuJuania Scott put forth the motion to approve February's minutes.

-Aldon Jones seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Second Motion: Motion to approve February monthly bills.

-Derrick Parker put forth the motion to approve February monthly bills.

-TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- Update on enrollment, we have lost a few students just due to moving since we met last. We are currently at 387 total students which includes pre k. Of course there are new students coming in to enroll, so that number pretty much stays around 380-410.
- We are currently working with Mr. Clark on the budget for next year. We are working on a budget projecting at around 400 students.

- Dr. Mitchell met with the local investment commission, the LINC Commission, a couple of weeks ago. They are going to have some greater information in April regarding cuts taking place. LINC has received some cuts due to cuts that are happening on the national level. One of the ways it has affected LINC is they are not going to be able to fund the after school summer program the way that they've always done it. As a result, if we want to keep using LINC to do our before and after school care in the summer we have to send them \$25,000. They are going to send us an exact printout with the details. Every site is receiving cuts and our school is the last site that has not had to pay anything. In addition, LINC is asking that our Board considers contributing \$27,000 for the next school year for before and after school care. It cost a few hundred thousand dollars to cover our particular site, which is roughly the same cost as similar sites. And so, LINC is going to be asking school districts to do cost sharing due to the effects from the cuts.
- Regarding financial disclosure forms, we are uploading those to the Missouri Ethics Commission. You should have received an email sometime around January from the Missouri Ethics Commission asking you to fill out the personal financial disclosure (PFD) form. If you fill out that form, you can simply text or scan and email to Dr. Mitchell and he will upload it for you.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- Dr. Mitchell doesn't have the exact report in front of him, but will report that Dr. Hayes and her instructional team are continuing to work with teachers to increase rigor in the classroom, which is something we know we have to work on. They are continuing to work on instruction in the building and working on staffing for next school year. Right now, we don't have any resignations that have been put in. We have a couple of retirements that have been put in, Ms. Lydia Bartee (26 years of service) and Ms. Barbara Johnson. So staffing is going pretty good thus far.
- Contracts have not gone out yet. We are working on that with Mr. Clark but we have a lot of staff to get through. After spring break, we are going to hand out what's called Letters of Intent so that we can see which of staff is going to come back. That way we get a much larger picture. By our April meeting we should be able to tell what openings could be addressed.
- The Black History program, which some Board Members were able to make it, was a great success.
- Math preparation, 3rd through 8th grade teachers are working to have students master and chart one math standard per day.
- Our math essentials class, an extra math intervention class for 3rd to 8th grade students, has begun and is doing well.
- Regarding student enrollment, Dr. Hayes has signed up to attend two university recruitment days, and LATCA is also holding a teacher recruitment day event on March 29th.
- For Summer School, several teachers have already signed up to teach Summer School. These teachers have indicated they will be returning next school year. This year, we have made it a stipulation of teachers who signed a return for the following school year will be chosen first for Summer School positions.

Questions about Principal's Report

- Bishop Tolbert – When do teachers normally get contracts for the next year?

- Aldon Jones – In March at other school districts. That way they can know if they need to look for another job for the following school year.
- Bishop Tolbert – Dr. Mitchell, what's the plan for employee contracts?
 - Dr. Mitchell – My goal is that the letters of intent will go out next week when we return from spring break, and then the Board will be able to vote on a budget, and approve a budget so we can print out contracts in April. Typically, at our school, we've handed them out in April, to my knowledge.
 - Mr. Clark – Regarding the budget and employee contracts, some of the factors are a cost of living allowance, enrollment tapering down, and us not knowing what is going to happen with the Title 1 money (likely reduced if not cut). I wanted to roll all of that up to see where exactly we would be to see what kind of increases we can factor in. I would like to have at least a preliminary budget to use to gauge what the salaries need to be to support whatever enrollment we expect to sign up.
- Blaine Clark – What is in the Letter of Intent?
 - Dr. Mitchell – The letter of intent will just simply ask the staff; do they intend to return for the next school year? For example, it will say "This letter is to determine what is your will or desire for the next school year. Do you plan to return? If so, check yes. Do you plan not to return? If so, check no. Or are you undecided?". That kind of gives Dr. Hayes an opportunity to see where there could possibly be vacancies. The only thing that we don't really put in the letter of intent is the potential salary.
- Bishop Tolbert – Do we have a solid date for when the letter of intent is going out?
 - Dr. Mitchell – The plan was on Monday, 3/24, we would prepare them all and then hand them out that day. So by Wednesday of next week, everybody should have a letter of intent. We will give them 10 days to complete the letter of intent. We should have a report on how many have come back in for our next meeting in April.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- On page 3, you will see a slight increase in our accounts payable. It's probably \$50,000-\$60,000 more than usual due to some invoices getting processed late. One of them was the big invoice we talked about last Board meeting from Operation Breakthrough.
- On page 10, it shows our net income for the month of January was \$127,483 and our year to date net income is \$378,697.
- Good financials are reported through June-July, the first 7 months of the physical year. We have seen a lift from the extra money that we had to spend by September. All of those have been reimbursed back to us. We should have seen an increase of \$127,000 but that profitability basically covered that Operation Breakthrough invoice so we are pretty close to where we were last month.
- Mr. Wallace and I have a difference of opinion on how we should report on year to date. Mr. Wallace is potentially measuring a full year and not a half year convention. We will get this resolved by the next meeting.
- Linda Edgely put forth the motion that we accept the Treasurer's report as read.

- TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Items for Consideration/Approval

- Approval for technology request submitted by Karen Brooks
 - Dr. Mitchell – This is a request submitted by Karen Brooks for a security camera update; located in your Board docs. The request is to update our cameras and to make our cameras more efficient to what we need. The total cost is \$26,000 and some change. The quote, from k12, should be located in your Board docs.
 - Bishop Tolbert – This is the first we are seeing of this \$26,000, and when considering what's going on with LINC and the talks about Title money possibly being cut, I don't see us committing to \$26,000 right now. I think that the \$26,000 should be a part of the budget discussion for next year so that we can prioritize that within the expenditures that we put on the list. We will throw this technology request back to the budget committee and to Mr. Clark.
- Approval for DVR replacement - \$700
 - The DVR has crashed. Half the building is currently without any video coverage because it doesn't have a DVR. It is a physical piece of equipment that will cost \$700 to replace.
 - Blaine Clark put forth motion to replace DVR and move the \$26,000 technology request to the budget planning process for next year.
 - Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
 - Motion approved.
- Approval for permission to add additional days to the 24/25 school calendar to make up for used snow days
 - Dr. Mitchell – I've met with Dr. Hayes and her team. We are requesting that the Board grant our school permission to add days to the calendar to make up for the snow days. As a rule, we are not allowed to count our AMI days as it relates to making them up. Our school used up our AMI days and we had to take 6 additional days because of snow. Due to the addition of extra days, our calendar team has looked at taking away some days, PD day on 4/4, but has elected to keep the Good Friday, 4/18. At this point, we are requesting that the year be allowed to complete June 6th. That date will give us the amount of days and hours that we need to fulfill the 169-day requirement and the 1044-hour requirement.

Questions about approval for permission to add additional days to the 24/25 school calendar

- TuJuania Scott – When was the original date for the end of the school year?
 - Dr. Mitchell – It was May 28th
- Aldon Jones – Who does the selection to keep Good Friday?
 - Dr. Mitchell – We have a calendar committee that works on the calendar each year, and historically, Lee A. Tolbert does not have school on Good Friday and so the team just left

that date alone. Most Kansas City public schools don't take Good Friday off, but some do.

- Bishop Tolbert – When is summer school slated to start?
 - Dr. Mitchell – Summer school will be slated to start on Monday 6/9, that way we reach the 120 hours required for full summer school. We will have 6/19 off for Juneteenth and the following day, 6/20, off because the church is hosting a conference. Typically, we have between 150-200 students enrolled for summer school.
- Bishop Tolbert – Last year, did we get a slump in attendance after July 4th?
 - Dr. Mitchell – Typically as summer goes on there is a slump in attendance. So the answer is yes, but it wasn't massive. It was normal end of summer school slump. We still had a nice amount of enrollment, but you do have kids toward the last week start missing more.
- TuJuania Scott – Do you think that there's going to be a lot of kids that return after Memorial Day?
 - Dr. Mitchell – At the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade level we will see less attendance. A lot of the lower grades, k-5th, will schedule a lot of their end of the year activities like field day and field trips so the kids will come out more for that. But the older kids will have a drop in attendance. One thing we are going to do is push back our 8th grade promotion to 6/3 which will help kids want to come back to participate in the promotion.
- Bishop Tolbert put forth motion that we add Good Friday, 4/18, and get out of school on 6/5.
- Aldon Jones seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Committee Reports

- Board Governance
 - Bishop Tolbert – Reading through the bylaws, provided by our charter sponsor, it talked about how the Board would have a Vice President. It's for in the case that the President wasn't available, the Vice President could carry on the meeting. I was supposed to be on a plane tonight but it was delayed by 3 hours and I didn't know if I could get to Indianapolis in time but thankfully I was able to change flights to 5am tomorrow. It got me thinking we need a Vice President. I want to nominate Aldon Jones as our Vice President of this Board.
- Linda Edgely put forth motion we make Aldon Jones our Vice President of the Board.
- TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

- Aldon Jones put forth motion for adjournment.
- TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Next Board Meeting: Monday April 21st at 7pm