

Board Meeting 6/16/25

Zoom Meeting ID: 874 6332 5544

Zoom Passcode: 807397

Call to Order: Board Chair, Bishop Mark Tolbert

- Bishop Tolbert called to order the monthly Board Meeting at 7:09pm.

Roll Call

- Bishop Mark Tolbert
- Raevynn Carter
- Derrick Parker
- Linda Edgely
- TuJuania Scott

First Motion: Motion to approve May's minutes.

-Derrick Parker put forth the motion to approve May's minutes.

-TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Questions about June/July monthly bills

- **Blaine Clark** – Ms. Middlebrooks, did you add those credit invoices that we needed to get paid for the consultants?
 - **Ms. Middlebrooks** – Yes sir, they are on there. Its ERCD.

Second Motion: Motion to approve June's and July's monthly bills.

-Blaine Clark put forth the motion to approve June's and July's monthly bills.

-Linda Edgely seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- Summer school is off to a very nice start. Mr. Urban Ray is the Principal for summer school. The number that I have on there at the time that I created this, our enrollment was 228, but I know it's much higher than that now. We were walking around the classes today and everything seemed to be going well, the kids seemed to be excited.
 - **Ben Brentano** – We are currently at 265.
- Last board meeting, you all asked me to provide clarity on how our school is funded during the summertime. And so I reached out to our DESE representative and she sent me the following information, and that is on your board docs for number two on the superintendent's report.
- The Governor of Missouri, Mike Kehoe, has initiated a task force to update funding for education. They are meeting now. I will give the board updates each month. He is seeking to find a new funding formula, that according to him is more equitable for all schools. That will be charter schools, public schools, rural urban, and all of those. The committee is just now beginning to meet, so right now that are at the introductory stages of meeting.
- Our administrative team, along with our chairman of the board, and our consultant, Dr. Roper, Dr. Hayes, and Dr. Bryant have submitted the necessary documents to Kansas City Public Schools, as it relates to their determination if they will sponsor our charter. As soon as we hear from them, our board president will inform us on what the decision is.

Questions about the Superintendent's Report

- **Dr. Troy Nash** – Is the goal really to find out or to seek equity? Or is there something else going on? In other words, to try to get public money into private schools and that kind of thing.
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Dr. Nash, from my research, it's the latter. The way that it is being spun is that it's for more equitable funding. But I think the ultimate goal is to get more money in private hands.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – They have been trying to do vouchers for many years, and the problem with vouchers is that now people can take their tax dollars to private schools. And so, unfortunately, it's not enough to cover tuition. So it really wouldn't help poor families. It would just help those families that are already there not to have to come out of pocket as much. So hopefully that system will be defeated again and we will continue to have equitable funding for public schools in the state of Missouri.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – When we started years ago, they used to tack on some other monies for summer school. We would get line 1.5 times per child what we were getting during the regular school year. Do you know if any of that is still in operation from the formula?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – I'm not for sure. When I put the question out to our DESE representative, she said she was going to do additional research because the funding formula for summer school is very, very complicated. And so she is going to give me some more information as she learns more.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- I have been working with Mr. Ray for summer school. Summer school is running from June 9th until July 3rd, so 17 days total. We were allowed to tack on a little more time on each day so we could get all the required hours (120 hours) within those 17 days. To combat low summer school enrollment numbers, we had to call students to come in and sent out mandatory “you must come to summer school” letters. So we ended up with 250 students. We have been doing physical counts daily, so as of today, our current physical count of bodies that are in the building is 238. Also, we did add two teachers due to the increase in enrollment.
- The secretaries have started calling students and parents, as well as, sending home letters with the people who are physically here for summer school so we can get a count per grade level to gauge how many students will be returning in the Fall. So they’ve been working on that so we can get some idea of headcount, but there will be people coming in late and enrolling last minute. This will help us get the bus schedule set, and have an adequate amount of teachers and classrooms. The biggest class is 2nd grade so we have been concentrating on that.
- We have 3 more recruitment events so we are going to continue to push requirement, especially for kindergarten classes. Our kindergarten numbers at this point are low.
- Regarding teaching staff, we have all teacher positions filled except for a 5th grade teacher and an 8th grade English teacher. And we do have someone coming in this week for an interview for the English teacher position. We also have one of our people that are enrolled in the Aspiring Teachers program that we may be able to move into that 5th grade teaching position. We are looking good staff-wise. The retention bonus we handed out last week helped us out even more.
- We are really concentrating on making sure people have the correct certifications and good background checks.
- The 8th grade graduation was really nice. They did a full program with a reenactment of a song, and they did a dance by all the students reenacting a song for their future. And then each one of them had a sign that they talked about, and that they wore when they stepped out which told what their direction was, as far as, their future in entrepreneurial or other business. We had the whole place filled. It was full to the brim with parents. It was just really nice. The awards went over well.

Questions about the Superintendent’s Report

- **Bishop Tolbert** – How many EAs are we going to have for next year?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We would like to have at least 9 EAs, if not 10.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – How are those EAs distributed?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – There will be one per each grade level and then one EA that is shared amongst the specials such as music, gym, and art. And then there’s two in the Special Ed program so if we were able to stick to that then we would have 10.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Do we have any numbers on who’s already enrolled for the next year numbers wise?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We rolled over everybody from last year and we have been going back through and securing each grade level to see if everybody is coming from that grade level. So those are the numbers we are going off of.

- **Ben Brentano** – I believe we ended the school year roughly at 380 students. And then in the school lottery, about 41-43 have accepted a position for next year. We are also going to lose whoever was in 8th grade so about 40 students. And then we have about 20 students in summer school who did not attend Lee A. Tolbert this past year. Looks like we will be close to 400.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – So what do we need to do marketing wise? We usually have something at the end of the summer. Like a recruitment kickoff?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – At the end of the summer we are going to have a recruitment event, at the school, and we have been planning that with Ms. Dawson, and we need to go ahead and secure the date so we can get the flyers sent out.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Not only flyers, maybe a radio remote along with that. Some kind of promotional giveaways, we might be able to get KPRS. Costco and Walmart usually gives us some backpacks. So maybe during the radio remote, it would be if you come enroll, your kid will get a backpack full of pencils, pens, marker or whatever. The sooner we can get that date; the sooner we can start identifying what kind of incentives we can get from the community or even if we have to purchase some.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- On page 3, you'll see in the total assets, our general operating balance is sitting at a little over a million dollars.
- Talking with Ed Wallace, we were talking about looking at moving money to the CD and money market accounts. Mr. Wallace said, over the past several months, that LATCA has carried a cash balance in excess of a million dollars in its general operating account. This amount is well above the operating needs of the school. And due to the risk of theft from multiple sources, Mr. Wallace recommends that no more than \$200,000 be maintained in the operating account. Any amount above that should be transferred to the certificate of deposit. The FDIC insurance only reimburses depositories in the event of a bank failure. It does not guarantee or reimburse a loss due to theft.
- We have already been looking to transfer funds to interest bearing non-risk accounts. So at the end of the quarter, June, we will look at moving funds into a money market account and/or boosting up our CD balance.
- The recommendation was to keep the balance at \$200k or less. I am going to propose we keep it at \$500k or greater because in the event that we didn't get any deposits, we have got enough in our operating account to cover operating expenses. Operating expenses range from \$450k-\$550k. So I would like to keep the balance closer to that versus the \$200k from the consultant.
- This report is the report through April, so we will be getting another big deposit in May.
- We have an IRS tax credit of about \$490,000 that will be deposited in the account as well. With that, it would put us around \$1.3-\$1.4mil. We will be moving around \$600k-\$700k in those CD and money market accounts.
- On page 10, you will see the April profit and loss of \$34,776 and a year-to-date profit of \$527,000. So that's where our cash position is setting through the month of April.
- Our favorability is driven by all of those ESSER fund reimbursements we got earlier in the year. We spent the money last year and got reimbursed this year. A lot of those ESSER reimbursements came through from what we had paid, and that's one of the biggest drivers.

The other one is that we got a true up earlier in the year in our basic formula for what they short paid us last year.

- We are sitting in such a strong cash position this year. We may want to go ahead and pay that first payment to LINC for the first semester because instead of charging it to our July financials, we could charge it to our June financials. That way that first payment is already secured for the first semester.

- Blaine Clark put forth motion that we modify our June invoices to include the first payment of our LINC requirement going in to the 2025-26 school year.
- Dr. Troy Nash seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

- Linda Edgely put forth motion that we accept the financial report.
- Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Additional Items

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Last year we were late making plans for our December meeting. That would be the third Monday in December, the 15th. Do we want to have the board meeting at Capitol Hill? Or do we want to go back to Piropos?
 - The common consent was Piropos on Monday December 15th.
- The AMI (Alternate Method of Instruction) plan for the 2025-26 school year was presented and approved by the board.

Informational Items

- **Blaine Clark** – Did we get everything resolved with the afterschool provider? Is it LINC?
 - Bishop Tolbert – Yeah, we did get things resolved with LINC. They did lower that amount. They were asking for \$30,000, and I petitioned to them, and they lowered it to \$15,000.
 - **Blaine Clark** – And that was for the summer school portion. And then we were going to go ahead and pay the first half of it going into the school year? Because I think that was what's due at the beginning of the semester and then the second half due at the end of

the first semester or going into the second semester. Based on our cash position, we could go ahead and pay that first semester one out in June, or we could just wait and do it with the July bills. But I wanted to make sure we got that already paid with our positive cash flow in this fiscal year.

- **Ms. Middlebrooks** – I would say wait till July.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Dr. Mitchell, did you sign the contract for Boys and Girls Club or LINC?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – That was Boys and Girls Club, which is their agreement that they will service us again.

- Blaine Clark put forth motion for adjournment.
- Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Next Board Meeting: Monday August 18th at 7pm