

Board Meeting 2/24/25

Zoom Meeting ID: 874 6332 5544

Zoom Passcode: 807397

Meeting was called to order at 7:11pm.

First Motion: Motion to approve January's minutes.

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

-Clyde Irvin seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Second Motion: Motion to approve January monthly bills.

-Blaine Clark put forth the motion to approve January monthly bills.

-TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- Current enrollment, including Pre-K, as of about a week ago is right around 400 exactly.
- Due to the new laws put in place by the new President, there is a new potential situation that ICE is creating. LATCA does not have a lot of ELL students and we do not have anyone that we feel will qualify under that category that could be uprooted from their home. Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Berry have been meeting to discuss the potential of it happening. DESE has created a letter that school districts and school boards can look at to see if it's acceptable to send out to our clientele and families that gives assurance that schools are going to protect their students regardless of the situation. That letter will be presented at the next board meeting for the school board to adopt the verbiage of the letter. It is something that will need to be school board approved. It will be ready by the next board meeting.
- Board members should have received in their email, in late January early February, communications from the Missouri Ethics Commission for you to sign disclosure forms. Those disclosure forms can also be found in your Board documents. The forms need filled out, signed, and sent back to Lee A. Tolbert. Those forms, once completed, are going to be uploaded to the ReportWell system. We have to do that for compliance, and our goal is 100% compliance, which we have been achieving. The form is called the Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form.
- Lee A. Tolbert received a couple of recognitions from the St. Louis University Prime Research Index, sponsored by DESE. It congratulates our school for outstanding growth in hard to learn

subjects such as ELA and Math. Our school is exceeding the growth rate of most schools similar to Lee. A Tolbert.

Questions about Superintendent's Report

- Bishop Tolbert – Can you talk a little more about the Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form?
 - The form was put on Lee A. Tolbert letterhead. Once the form is sent back in, the form will be uploaded to the ReportWell compliance system. We have to do that for each Board Member and we can't do that until signed. Once signed, Dr. Mitchell will go on the Missouri Ethics Commission website and mark complete. If it's not complete by next month we could face the possibility of \$10/week fine per Board Member.
- Clyde Irvin – Can Dr. Mitchell talk about the second box on the Board Member Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form? The box referring to not being compliant.
 - The second box speaks to conflicts of interest needing reported. That means anyone on any type of board or committee that could conflict with our Board of Education. Or if anyone has any other type of vested interest that could compromise our integrity. Dr. Mitchell doesn't think it will apply to any of our Board Members. If it does, you just need to list what it is.
- Clyde Irvin – What about your spouse? (Referring to the disclosure form)
 - No, only the serving Board Member.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- Started looking at old MAP data to compare new students to the students coming in. Dr. Hayes sent the Board Members a document with each grades data going back to 2017. We have continued to trend in the right direction. We have problems with 3rd and 5th grade. We had an average on 10-12 students per grade last year that came in below basic. We struggled with that and losing a 5th grade teacher. Even so, we still raised many students out of below basic into proficient or basic per grade level. The students who are staying with us are moving upwards. 8th grade has about 20 students, and at least half of them moved up from below basic to basic or basic to proficient.
- On our reading improvement plans, we are doing alright with reading. If you look at our reading scores, we are almost doubling the math scores. The English scores are going in the right direction. The state has us providing reading plans for every student off grade level. We follow those plans all the way through Summer School. Kiewit is helping with that along with donating \$30,000. Some of the things we are doing with the donated money to improve reading are the reading contests, Istation, and more culturally relevant books. Istation is working closely with us

and our reading program, which is required by DESE. We are looking at possibly replacing Evaluate data with Istation data.

- For MAP preparation, we are doing the same as last year but we are making some changes. The classrooms with behavior issues tend to trend downwards as far as the scores. We are doing some things to make sure that doesn't happen this year. One thing we are doing is creating a Math Essentials class. It will be a second, additional math class which will be in the library on the days they don't have library. In addition, when they are testing we are going to create a whole testing area for 5th grade; the grade that lost a teacher and has behavior issues. We are going to use the auditorium as the testing area and create an environment to reduce these past issues and increase test scores.
- For response intervention, the staff is starting to do peer-to-peer teaching from one highly qualified teacher to the new staff. It occurs every Wednesday, the teachers are creating plans and training the teachers after school.
- Once again, Lee A. Tolbert won the Boys and Girls Club student of the year. A young man by the name of Levi won and is being celebrated across the Boys and Girls Club social media.
- A student has moved on to the next round of the spelling bee. The next round is this Saturday, 3/1, and Dr. Hayes will be attending to cheer on our student.

Questions about Principal's Report

- Bishop Tolbert – Have we ever tried showing parents where their kid lies in regards to the other students? It may help parents get more involved.
 - No, we haven't tried that but that is a good idea. We do send the parents the MAP data but it is a good idea to show exactly where that student lands in comparison with the rest of their class. We are getting ready to send home letters to students who are needing to come to Saturday School. We can add more data onto those letters to include that information.
- Blaine Clark – I sent over a template for percent's & changes for you and Dr. Bryant to work on. I just want to make sure you and Dr. Bryant aren't working on the same thing.
 - Dr. Bryant is working on the data that you sent and I'm finishing up on data that I've been working on.

Additional Items – Bishop Tolbert

- The Operation Breakthrough bill is in totaling \$119,479. Ms. Middlebrooks says that the bill is correct. Blaine also says the bill is correct. He says Operation Breakthrough doesn't bill monthly, they bill in bulk so that bill is for 6 months. Mr. Wallace allocated the fund for the expenses in the month they occurred so \$119,000 doesn't drop from the account at one time. In the future, Bishop Tolbert would like the Operation Breakthrough bill to have an attached page showing what we actually took in based upon the students we are paying for to give the Board a little more clarity.
 - Blaine Clark put forth the motion to approve the Operation Breakthrough bill.
 - Linda Edgely seconded the motion.

- Motion Approved.
- This is the first time hearing about the insurance plan. Is it a change? There is a document in the Board docs talking about the Aetna plan and the BOE contribution per year. Do we have 2-3 more weeks to breakdown these numbers? Dr. Mitchell says he thinks we have time. He hasn't had anything sent to him from Ms. Slaughter, who coordinates the back and forth with the insurance. Dr. Mitchell will talk to Mr. Hefner, our broker, to get greater clarity. Bishop Tolbert recommends we don't deal with this at this time and he will call Ms. Slaughter tomorrow to talk about it.
- There was a request in the Board Docs from Mr. Allen. Dr. Mitchell said he did not submit his documentation so can we push back to next month. Bishop Tolbert said absolutely. If we get a request, there needs a proposal attached.
- In the Board docs there was 2 bids for waste management, one from Waste Management and the other from Jim's Disposal. The Waste Management proposal is \$3935.51 and the Jim's Disposal is \$3680.00, so within \$200-\$300 of each other. We have used Waste Management for a number of years and Bishop Tolbert has personally used Jim's Disposal for the last 15 years. Clyde Irvin asked if we have time to look it over and come back later. He hadn't had time to look over the bids. Ms. Middlebrooks says they've been paid so we have time. Bishop Tolbert said we will table this until next meeting. The Jim's Disposal proposal ends March 7th so we will call to get an extension on the bid.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- This is for activity through the end of December. On page 3, quick snapshot of total assets, \$3.9 million. \$2.8 million in the CD. Our operating account is sitting at about \$705,000. Which is a little high but it's just the timing of the bills. Liabilities is sitting at about \$85,000.
 - On page 10, you'll see the current month net income of \$24,675. The year to date number of \$365,917. Regarding YTD, we have to take out the Operation Breakthrough bill we just sent so the more accurate number is \$245,000 roughly. It is still strong profitability. We do need to monitor expenses because the funds may dry up depending on what guidance the Office of Management and Budget takes based upon the funding delay and challenges.
 - On page 11, looking at YTD budget. It needs cleaned up because a lot of the negative numbers shouldn't be on there. We are going to change the way we look at that.
- Clyde Irvin put forth the motion that we accept the Treasurer's report as read.
 - Motion was seconded.
 - Motion approved.

Additional Questions

- Blaine Clark – Have you, Dr. Mitchell, and Dr. Hayes kicked off the discussions on budgeting so we can start looking at contracts?

- Dr. Mitchell – The meeting was cancelled but Dr. Hayes, Ms. Middlebrooks, and myself are meeting tomorrow in my office to discuss contracts, headcount target, and any PD dollars.
- Bishop Tolbert – Are we ok for snow days? Or are we going to extend the year?
 - Dr. Mitchell – We are currently one snow day over. We plan to go over, with Dr. Hayes, the calendar day by day to see if we could possibly give back one of the PD days. It is looking like we may have to add a day at the end of the school year. But that's provided that we don't have anymore snow days. We will know by tomorrow after our district office meeting. We have to make sure our days have covered 169 so we are going to have to add at least one day. We would like the Board to give us permission to add as many days as necessary to meet the 1044-hour requirement over 169 days. Bishop Tolbert said we need to see all that in writing before the Board can approve anything.
- TuJuania Scott – Did we use all the AMI days?
 - Dr. Mitchell – Yes, we are out of both AMI and Snow days.
- TuJuania Scott put forth motion for adjournment.
- Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Next Board Meeting: Monday March 17th at 7pm