

Board Meeting 11/17/25

Zoom Meeting ID: 977 7313 9415

Zoom Passcode: 3400



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
- Dr. Troy Nash
- Aldon Jones
- Linda Edgely
- TuJuanita Scott

First Motion: Motion to approve October's minutes.

-Dr. Troy Nash put forth the motion to approve October's minutes.

-TuJuanita Scott seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Second Motion: Motion to approve monthly bills.

-Aldon Jones put forth the motion to approve monthly bills.

-Linda Edgely seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- We did receive notification that the government shutdown has ended since our last board meeting. We only had one area of funding that was held up, and that was a stipend that our school is set to receive. That should be coming out of the government as its back open. The stipend was for the FER supplement. I have to research as to how much that exactly is.
- Last year, our Board of Education approved the 169-day calendar for school days. Because our school went extra days, to accommodate the extra hours, our school is going to receive a stipend check. Shelly Branstetter from the State of Missouri contacted me last week, and she will let me know exactly how much that is. The stipend should be deposited to our school in the next few weeks.
- The enrollment numbers (369 students), as of 11/17, are pretty much the same as last month. We did have a net increase of three students, so we still have families interested in joining Lee A. Tolbert.

Questions about the Superintendent's Report

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Did we get any more information on that mailing we were talking about doing within a 3-4 mile radius of our address?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – I am going to be working with Ms. Middlebrooks to get that going. I was in the hospital for a little while so everything that I promised I would do at the last board meeting took a pause. Thankfully I am doing better now, so starting tomorrow I am picking back up those things that I missed while I was out.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- Our APR report is finally in on the DESE website. We decreased our “Below Basic” percentages from last year to this year in ELA, Math, and Science. We also increased our attendance rate.
- We had 100% on the ICAP. The ICAP is where they survey the 8th graders for career readiness, and we do that every year in the entrepreneurial class.
- Something happened with our Kindergarten Readiness points last year, but this year we were able to have 94% on our Kindergarten Readiness points.
- Regarding the I-Station state reading plan, the state requires us to have reading plans for all of our students who are below reading level. We have all of those students now in the process. They all have a reading plan assigned to them. We have all the letters and notes sent home to the parents. We will be starting our Saturday School on December 6th.
- Our Kiewitt update, I mentioned last board meeting that Kiewitt wants to get with us regarding our proposal for their next dollar amount. Right now, they are waiting to hear back from SchoolSmartKC to know what they are going to do with them. We are just

waiting to hear back from Kiewitt at this point. They said that regardless of what direction they go in, that we will still be a part of it.

- Finally, I wanted to give an update on our academic coaches. I know there was some questions last board meeting regarding the three coaches and how we were going to keep track of their dollar amounts. They are keeping track of their hours and the teachers are signing off on their hours. Everything is going great in that direction. We just had two back-to-back professional development days. One on October 31st and one on November 7th. They taught during both of those days. They also have been teaching during the after school meetings.

Questions about the Principal's Report

- **Bishop Tolbert** – When you say that we were “up” in ELA, math, and science; can you give me some real data on where we were, where we are, and what percentages that represents?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – I can tell you from last year to this year our below basic in ELA was 43.3% and this year we went down to 41% below basic. In math, last year was 57.9% below basic and this year we were able to drop that down to 53%. In science, last year was 62% below basic and we were able to come up to 60%. We are growing in small amounts, but sometimes that is what you need to project.
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Our sponsor told us that we had set our goals, although admirable, too high based on what is typical growth for a student. The data that Dr. Hayes is reporting is on target in terms of what is typical growth. Dr. Hayes didn't mention, but the St. Louis Prime Index Growth Category Group consistently recognizes Lee A. Tolbert because of the numbers that Dr. Hayes mentioned. When you reduce the numbers of below basic, that is when your school starts getting recognized for academic achievement.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Can you get me those figures, in the next week or two? Make sure that I get the actual projections and where we are. I will then send them out to the board.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- On page 3, it shows we are sitting at \$3.2 million in the CD. We have over a million dollars sitting in the operating account, which is definitely on the high end. We are probably looking to move \$250,000-\$275,000 to the money-market account from the operating account.
- On page 4, the gross profit line, which highlights the revenue that come in for the month of October and then for July-October, shows we are sitting at \$685,000/month which is roughly what our run rate is. We are sitting at \$2.5 million year-to-date.
- On page 10, it shows our expenses for the period were \$538,000. Our expenses year-to-date are \$2.37 million. Our net income for the month of October was \$146,000. Our net

income for the year is \$165,000. So it shows we were basically running break-even months from July to September. So in October we picked up \$146,000 of the \$165,000 net income year-to-date.

- Overall, we are sitting in a great cash position. We have basically \$4 million in cash between our CD and general operating account. And then our year-to-date net income is \$165,000, and that is a pretty good profit margin which is a little bit stronger than what we are forecasting.

Questions about the Treasury Report

- **Blaine Clark** – Bishop, did you ever hear back from Trevor? Because he is securing a position with Wells Fargo. We were looking at moving money from this operating account to a money-market account, and we were going to leverage him at Edward Jones and now he is moving to Wells Fargo. I told him we have been holding these funds in an operating account, so come to us with what your rate is, what your market rate is, and if you could get us something to consider by the end of the month.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – No.
- **Dr. Troy Nash** – And you have this relationship with Wells Fargo so you are giving this person an opportunity to come back with a competitive rate? Do you have any idea what that rate is?
 - **Blaine Clark** – Yes sir, money-market rates right now are at about 3.25%. So I want to see what he can come back with, as far as, comparing what we are currently getting on our CD.
- **Dr. Troy Nash** – What are we currently getting on our CD?
 - **Blaine Clark** – We are getting 3.125% on our CD.
 - **Dr. Troy Nash** – The reason I was asking is because I serve on a bank board. I am on Paramount Bank's Board of Directors and I don't have a problem talking to the Chairman and seeing if we can beat all those things. If you are interested and it is something you want me to pursue, write it up and shoot me an email and tell me what the perimeters are.
 - **Blaine Clark** – What we are looking for is we don't want to tie it up in the CD because there is a penalty for early withdrawal. This is really a reserve to our operating account if we ever needed to pull money out.

- Dr. Troy Nash put forth motion that we accept the financial report.
- Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Informational Items

- **Annual Thanksgiving luncheon this Thursday – all lunch shifts**
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – This upcoming Thursday, 11/20, during our lunch shifts is our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Board members are welcome to come. It will be in our school cafeteria and will be during all four lunch shifts. The Thanksgiving luncheon will begin around 10:30am and end around 1:40pm.

Items for Consideration/Approval

- **Request approval for stipend for music teacher**
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – This is a follow-up from the music teacher, Mr. Gill, who requested a stipend for additional hours and training given to the music staff and students. The stipend would include students playing at basketball games, rehearsals, field trips, and other various extracurricular events. He is also interested in launching a piano program that would be held on Monday's and Wednesday's beginning the second week of January. Mr. Gill said the purpose of the stipend is to increase the span of the music department. The request is for a \$3000 stipend.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – I think the last discussion we had on this was the Board does not want to hear what the teacher thinks. The Board wants a request to come from the Principal or the Superintendent saying we think this is necessary. I don't feel like this request is coming from administration, and the necessity of it. If you all have met, talked about a job description, talked about the hours it is going to take, and looked at the money then I think the Board will entertain it, but it still looks like it is being teacher-driven rather than administration-driven.
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Bishop, what Dr. Hayes and I can do tomorrow is we can reconvene to discuss the stipend, and we can bring this back to discuss during the December board meeting.
- **Request approval for staff holiday gathering site**
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – The staff is requesting to have the staff holiday gathering at the Grand Street Café on December 2nd. It would cost \$2000 to rent out the Grand Street Café. I did speak to the staff, and they said that if it was not approved they had a plan B. The Grand Street Café is a \$2000 minimum purchase for food, and the rental fee for the building is \$250, so \$2250 total.

Questions about approval for staff holiday gathering site

- **Bishop Tolbert** – So are they paying anything?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – The staff said they are willing to pay so they will do a contribution towards that
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Is there any money in fundraiser?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Yes, they have raised, through their own teacher fundraiser, about \$500-\$600 for this event. They do have a plan B because if there is not enough RSVPs for the Grand Street Café, we don't want to waste that money. So they are working on getting numbers right now.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Who does these negotiations?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – One of our Eagle teams is for teacher celebrations, and the person who is the lead on that right now is Ms. Grantham. She told me the plan B was a Top Golf location.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – When these negotiations are taking place, they need to talk to people who do business every day. I have done things at the Grand Street Café and that seems a little pricey.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Do they have a contract? Did they get something in writing?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – They do have a contract, of course nobody has signed it, but I do have the contract.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Can you send me the contract tomorrow? And I'll go down to Grand Street Café and see if I can make it a little bit better. In the past, the staff has contributed something and then the Board has contributed something.
 - **Dr. Hayes** – I know last year we paid half, and then the Board paid the other half.
- **Dr. Troy Nash** – There are those of us that have any number of relationships with a bunch of restaurants. The first one that popped in my mind was Tasso's Greek Restaurant on Wornall Rd. That may not be sophisticated enough for the group, but just knowing the owner of a restaurant like that we could very easily get accommodated and get a little extra oomph. These are things just out there for consideration.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – And they do have a private room?
 - **Dr. Troy Nash** – Yeah, in the back.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Alright, why don't we see if we can do that. And then we will do the same deal that we did last year.
 - **Dr. Troy Nash** – December 2nd at what time?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We are looking for either December 2nd or the 6th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.
- **Request approval for walkie talkie upgrade submitted by Karen Brooks**

- **Dr. Mitchell** – Our school is in desperate need of walkie talkies. Technology has increased, and so our methods of communication needs to improve.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – I saw that if we use this particular brand of walkie talkies it is only \$1300, but if we tried to fix the old set it was like \$8000.
-
- Bishop Tolbert put forth motion that we get the new walkie talkies.
 - Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
 - Motion approved.

Adjournment

- Dr. Troy Nash put forth motion for adjournment.
- Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Next Board Meeting: Monday December 15th at 7pm