



Board Meeting 12/15/25

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 7:00pm.

Roll Call

- Bishop Mark Tolbert
- Blaine Clark
- Aldon Jones
- Linda Edgely
- TuJuania Scott
- Clyde Irvin

First Motion: Motion to approve November's minutes.

-Clyde Irvin put forth the motion to approve November's minutes.

-Linda Edgely seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Second Motion: Motion to approve monthly bills.

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

-Linda Edgely seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- Lee A. Tolbert is going to receive a reduction in state aid for the next four months. The Kansas City Missouri school district (KCPS), which is where we get our funding based off of, has had some inaccurate reporting over the last several years, and thus, been receiving funds based on “pandemic money”. The pandemic monies are over and the state is coming back to take those pandemic monies, so all the charter schools have to pay their portion. The Lee A. Tolbert portion, which is one of the lower portions to pay back, is \$182,000. When I talked to DESE last week, they did say that they would take it over four months. So we are going to receive a reduction of \$45,555 over the next four months. That will occur from January to April. And again, that is due to a reduction in the funding formula that is given to KCPS because they have been reporting numbers based off of the pandemic. When the pandemic was going on, the state let you go back to the year 2020 and report on that higher enrollment.
- Lee A. Tolbert enrollment, as of 12/15/2025, is 364 students. That represents the students that are currently enrolled.
- Dr. Hayes and I, on Thursday, had the privilege to attend a reception hosted by St. Louis University. That is who we are courting, and they are courting us, for charter sponsorship. We stayed awhile and talked to all the various people. We left Thursday feeling very positive. We have a meeting with Dr. Alexandra Boyd and St. Louis University executives this Friday, 12/19, at 10:30am. It will be a Zoom meeting. We are going to be able to talk about what is the status of our charter application. Right now, from what we understand, the only thing they are trying to make sure is that they have the capacity to sponsor all the different schools because they do a lot in St. Louis as well.

Questions about Superintendent's Report

- **Bishop Tolbert** – How many other schools do they sponsor in this area?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Two, Genesis and Hope Academy. And what they did for Genesis is they gave them a 2-year contract, but Genesis has the right size of academic types of things so typically they are not going to go over 5 years.
- **Clyde Irvin** – Is there a reason they gave Genesis 2 years? It sounds like a trial basis to see how they do.
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – It is a trial, but they haven't communicated it that way. Dr. Hayes and I actually looked over the Genesis contract and it is pretty strenuous. I don't know why Genesis' was so strict. If you get a 2-year contract, it does say that if you don't make progress after 1 year they can move to shut you down.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Well Genesis had the same problem we had. The Charter School Commission is not a very good sponsor. When Genesis took them to court, then they came back and gave Genesis a 2-year provisional contract. So they have 2 years to show that they have the capability with a good sponsor. We are even open to that because we know we can meet the threshold. Once we get

that approval from them, then we will sit down and write a plan and have them and the Board approve it.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- The data update is really kind of a continuation of what Dr. Mitchell was speaking about regarding our St. Louis University meeting. The conversation was really positive, but some of the conversation stemmed around 2024-25 scores. Our scores for 2024-25, and I know they are going to be looking at some other things, were better than the two schools they have (Genesis and Hope Academy), as well as, the two schools that the Charter Commission were comparing us to (Faxon and Central Middle). Those were all positive things. Our APR (annual percentage rate) percentage was down. Our grade percentages, we had improved in ELA and math for all the grade levels.
- School Smart literacy program and Kiewit (Kiewit is the company that has been consistently sponsoring us and giving us money for literacy), this time they took it to their Board to put a lot of money into a program that is going to go across Kansas City, Missouri for literacy. And it is a huge program. They just told me a couple of days ago that that has passed, and all of their money and training (professional development) is coming to Lee A. Tolbert. So they will be training myself and the teachers, taking us up several notches for whatever type of curriculum that the School Smart literacy program across Kansas City is going to be using. They wanted to make it clear that yes they are going to be a part of it, but their money is only targeted towards us. We have a Zoom meeting with their new coordinator.
- The boy's and girls' basketball team both won their games on Saturday, and they were in our facility. Mr. Reese and the basketball teams are being self-sufficient now because they are being able to charge to have games at our facilities, and as a result, are able to buy their own uniforms.
- We are having our staff Christmas party this Friday, 12/19, at Tasso's Greek Restaurant. The staff is really positive this year. We have 42 people right now who have RSVP'd.
- Our Christmas program, that all of students are in, will be on Thursday, 12/18, at 6pm.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- No Treasury Report this month.

Items for Consideration/Approval

- **Request approval for stipend for music teacher**
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Dr. Hayes and I met with Mr. Gill to write this proposal. One of the recruiting techniques we are going to be using for the school is to beef up the music program. In the proposal, you will see the various things he is going to do, and so we are requesting a stipend to get him paid in December and May. That would encompass the total of \$3000. In doing research of other area school districts that have schools about our size, this stipend will be commensurate of what other school districts pay their music director.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Some of this stuff on here ought to be in his regular contract. Fall, Winter, and Spring music concert, I X'ed that out. Instrumental performances and school games, is that necessary? Now I will say this, at the Thanksgiving dinner, they did an incredible job.
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Because we are an elementary/middle school, we have to use all the same specials teachers. So all of our students, K-8th, have a regular music class. There is no time during the day for band practice. Also, Mr. Gill is traveling to take these students to functions to perform.
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – The band is not a requirement of his job. That is an extra-curricular activity, so Mr. Gill could basically say “I’m not doing the band” because music is the class, not band.

- Linda Edgely put forth motion to approve the music teacher stipend.
- Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

- **Request approval for payment for staff holiday party**
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We are having our staff Christmas party this Friday, 12/19, at Tasso’s Greek Restaurant. The staff is really positive this year. We have 42 people right now who have RSVP’d.

Questions about Request approval for payment for staff holiday party

- **Bishop Tolbert** – What is the financial arrangement for the staff Christmas party?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Dr. Nash arranged with the manager, or whoever his contact was, that it would be \$25 per person. So that includes the food which was a pretty good deal.

- **Bishop Tolbert** – So how is the financial part being handled for the staff Christmas party?

- **Dr. Mitchell** – I think that will be paid through the finance office once we have a final count of how many people are going.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – So who is paying it? Because we were going to pay a portion because it was going to be more than that at the other place.
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Yes, we are just waiting for the final amount. The teachers, so far, have turned in \$20 per teacher.
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – Ok, so all we have to do is come up with \$5 per teacher plus the tip.
- Bishop Tolbert put forth motion to pay \$5 per teacher plus tip out of the Board's funds.
- Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.
- **Request approval for Aron Nunn's carpet cleaning service**
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Aron Nunn has submitted a proposal to clean the carpets (10 classroom carpets & 1 main carpet) at the school. So he has submitted a proposal that he has written for consideration.

Questions about Request approval for Aron Nunn's carpet cleaning service

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Altogether it is 10 classroom carpets for \$300 and 1 main carpet for \$60. Where is the main carpet?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – I'm assuming the main carpet just means anyplace that has a large surface area, which we really don't have a lot in our building.
- Bishop Tolbert put forth motion that we accept the carpet cleaning proposal by Aron Nunn.
- Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Adjournment

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

Next Board Meeting: Monday January 26th at 7pm