



Board Meeting 2/16/26

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 7:10pm.

Roll Call

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

First Motion: Motion to approve January's minutes.

-Linda Edgely put forth the motion to approve January's minutes.

-Aldon Jones seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Second Motion: Motion to approve monthly bills.

-Linda Edgely put forth the motion to approve monthly bills.

-TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.

-Motion approved.

Questions about monthly bills

- **Aldon Jones** – For professional development, we spent \$4000, how many days was it?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – It was about 6 teachers that went to the Lake of the Ozarks for professional development.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mitchell

- Our enrollment is pretty much the same as it was last month (354 students).
- I did attend the Greater Kansas City Superintendent Association meeting last week. The main issue that was discussed, which doesn't completely affect Lee A. Tolbert but it very well could in the future, is the issue of transgender in sports (men playing women's sports and women playing men's sports). So that is something coming down the pipe with Missouri legislation. The state Board of Education in Missouri would like to take over Missouri's sports, so that is a big discussion. And I know that Lee A. Tolbert does offer some sports so that is just something that the Superintendent's legal counsel has recommended we keep our eye open to. I don't think we have had an issues with people trying to cross sports, but it is certainly something could happen in the future. Right now, the state policy is that a male cannot participate in female sports, and vice versa.

Principal's Report – Dr. Hayes

- I submitted some data for our 5-year progression showing whether we are approaching or on track. What I found out when I looked on DESE is that they had eliminated the year 2020 and 2021, and so we actually just have from 2022-2025. When you look at the data this way, which is the same way DESE looks at it, our data is not looking too bad. We have a year, which is 2024, where we dropped down a little bit. This is something that is more relevant to showing that we have been making progress over that 4-year span. 90% of the time we are either on track or approaching.
- There is a company that comes through to several schools, and they chose our school this past first semester. It is a really good opportunity. We had our 4th grade participate, and they gave them the publishing part (just the pictures) of the book and had them write and publish their own books. 60 students participated, all of 4th grade.
- Our Black History program is next Thursday, 2/26 @ 1:30pm.
- In April, a large amount of our students have been invited to go sing for the CarePortal presentation they are having in Overland Park. That is an honor and they are preparing for that.

Questions about Principal's Report

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Can you walk us through that (APR MAP Comparison)?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – The Missouri Performance Index (MPI) was 293.8 back in 2018. It needs to be closer to 300. The don't have data on DESE for 2019-2021, but in

2022 we were up at 324.7, and in 2023 we were up to 334.5. This was for English language arts. Then they changed their formula, and everybody dropped down. We went down to 326.8 in 2024. Then this past year we went up to 327.4.

- **Blaine Clark** – What do the points possible, points earned, and level mean for the status and growth for each year? How do I interpret that?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – They give us status points which is based on how close you came to the goal. In status points, it also has your attendance points and your kindergarten assessment points. The status and the growth points not only takes in their scores, but it takes in other characteristics. Now that particular calculation where they came up with the possible points, because each school has different possible points that they can earn, is one thing I am still looking in to. I am trying to see how to gain the most points for our status and for our growth. For the status and growth level, its either on-track, above, or approach. The least you want to be is “approaching” your target. If you look at 2022 and 2023 for English Language Arts, we were above our target. In 2024, we hit the target even though we dropped a little. In 2025, we are right on-track, so that is the other thing the Charter Association looks at.

- **Blaine Clark** – What is the target MPI test score?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – They will give you a certain amount of points per grade. So everyone that gets an advanced score gets 5 points. Everyone who gets a proficient score gets 4 points. Then it drops down 3 points for basic, and 1 point for below basic. There is no target amount, necessarily, that we are trying to reach for our MPI test score. We just have to increase our score every year.

- **Blaine Clark** – In 2024, we were down 2% in ELA, 6% in Math, and 5% in Science. We were down across all three areas; what was that driver?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We had two situations that occurred in 2024. One is the formula changed. When the formula changed, everybody dropped so when they look at us they will see everybody else dropping too. The other situation, regarding what happened to us in Math in 2024, is that we took in a lot of new students that year. The more students that you have, the more chances for lower scores. All students that stay at Lee A. Tolbert consistently go up each year; reaching towards proficient and advanced. We brought in a lot of new students that year and almost all of them were below basic.

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Where are we in comparison to Faxon and Central Middle School?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Above. With Central Middle School we are above on everything. The only place where we were lower than Faxon was with Math. That year we had a drop in the Math score, and remember we also had a teacher die and we lost one that year.

- **Blaine Clark** – Is our growth outpacing Faxon and Central Middle School?

- **Dr. Hayes** – I will have to look into that. I haven't looked as closely at their growth as I have their MPI scores.
- **Dr. Mitchell** – From the data that I have looked at, we are trending higher than Central Middle School. Faxon is progressing rather aggressively, but Dr. Hayes can look more in depth. We do outpace Central and we do outpace Hogan, which is another school we are sometimes compared to.
- **Blaine Clark** – Is the company that came through support through the Kiewit reading program? Or is that regular curriculum that they did?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – This is an outside company from Kiewit. They only chose about 5 schools, and someone recommended our school. And now our 5th grade students are participating since they just chose 2 grades.

Treasury Report – Mr. Clark

- On page 8, it shows the income for the month of January at \$623,824. Right now everything is trending in decent order. Even with enrollment not being where we had hoped it would be, the financials seem to be steady. We have been getting true-ups in federal money and some Prop-C money.
 - On page 13, it shows the total expenses at \$527,446. That gives us a net operating income of \$96,378 for the month. That's putting us at around a 15% profit margin.
 - For Year-to-date, we are sitting at a net income of \$510,000 and that is about an 11% profit margin which is right around what we had budgeted.
- TuJuania Scott put forth motion to approve the financial report.
 - Linda Edgely seconded the motion.
 - Motion approved.

Items for Consideration/Approval

- **Request approval for National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Stipend**
 - **Bishop Tolbert** – The stipend is for \$1000 for Ms. Jacqueline Hughes. \$500 would be paid out in February and \$500 in May. Does anyone know what this is about?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Bishop, this is a request for not only this year's NJHS, but all those in the future to receive a stipend for the additional hours that they put in to

prepare students to achieve the standards of NJHS, and put forth the ceremonies that go forth. The reason that says February and May is because she was not paid a stipend in December, so typically moving forward, that would be half of the \$1000 in December and the other half in May. That would be for any person that sponsors the NJHS.

- **Bishop Tolbert** – It basically says oversee chapter operations and ensure the group follows NJHS national guidelines and LATCA policies. Coordinate the selection process for new members (eligibility, applications, faculty council review). Support student officers by advising them on meetings, projects, and leadership decisions. Plan and supervise meetings, inductions, and ceremonies. Guide service projects and ensure hours are meaningful and properly documented. Maintain records (membership lists, service hours, attendance, conduct). Communicate with administration, parents, and students about NJHS expectations and events. Uphold NJHS values – scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Mentor members in leadership skills, responsibility, and ethical behavior. Handle discipline or probation matters according to LATCA NJHS procedures.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – I am all for doing this once we get the criteria of how often they meet, and how many students will be participating. Ms. Middlebrooks, you can follow up on this to make sure that we get answers to these before the check is written.
 - **Ms. Middlebrooks** – Yes sir.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Ms. Middlebrooks, let's put you on the agenda. Dr. Mitchell, put the Business Office on the agenda for the next meeting to give us this breakdown. In the meantime, we should probably go ahead and pass the approval request. The Business Office will hold it until we get the answers we want.

Questions about Request approval for NJHS Stipend

- **Bishop Tolbert** – Who did this last year?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Dr. Shaun Bryant. The instructional coach.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Was he paid anything?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – I thought he was, but Ms. Middlebrooks said that he wasn't. I thought that they always got paid.
- **Linda Edgely** – That seems like that should be part of their duties?
 - **Dr. Mitchell** – Those are duties outside of the school day. The NJHS is like an additional extra-curricular activity.
- **Blaine Clark** – What is the time commitment for the NJHS sponsor?

- **Dr. Hayes** – It's not broken down in the same way as a regular club. They have to take them to do community service and service projects. There are criteria that they have to follow according to the NJHS organization. The way the \$1000 came up is Ms. Middlebrooks had asked me to check into other schools to see what they were doing. I checked into KCPS and they give a little more per semester, but of course they are bigger so I just scaled it down to \$500 a semester.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – I am like Mr. Clark and would like to know if this is a meeting twice a week. If you will give us a schedule of when the meetings are going to be. Are the students chosen by grades? Or how are they chosen?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – They are chosen by their grades, attendance, and behavior. All of that according to the rules of the organization. Once they are inducted at the beginning of the previous year, then they stay in the next year unless they break any of the rules. And then you have new inductees. I can have Ms. Hughes come up with a schedule on when they meet because I am not exactly sure when she meets with them.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – How many students are involved?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – We have about 25 students this year.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – Is it actually going on now?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Yes, we had the induction earlier in the year, and the candle lighting, the whole ceremony has taken place, and the giving out of the cords. All of that has already taken place. They have had one service project, and they have some of their community services already put in. They have to have another service project this semester, and finish out their community service hours.
- Blaine Clark put forth motion to approve the NJHS stipend
- TuJuania Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.
- **Request approval for carpet installation by Mass Home Renovation (\$2960)**
 - **Dr. Hayes** – The Special Ed teacher, Ms. Jacqueline Hughes, who works with our autistic children, has been asking for carpet for just the classroom area because they have meltdowns where they fall out on the floor. Ms. Hughes said too many students have been falling off the throw rugs and hitting their head. Ms. Hughes talked with Ms. Middlebrooks and Ms. Middlebrooks had her get an estimate of having carpet installed in that room.

- **Bishop Tolbert** – I think we almost need some pictures, some samples, and a little more of a detailed write-up explanation. We need to make sure that they have looked at every angle. So that's a no for right now.
- **Dr. Hayes** – I didn't know it was that much. I thought it was closer to like \$1000, but yeah I think as long as we got carpets that cover the whole floor.
- **Bishop Tolbert** – It says materials is \$1760, but the labor is \$1200.

Questions about Request approval for carpet installation

- **Bishop Tolbert** – So Dr. Hayes, in your opinion, because it is easier to clean throw rugs, could we just get more throw rugs?
 - **Dr. Hayes** – Yeah, we would just have to purchase some larger ones that cover the whole area. I think either would do.

Adjournment

- Clyde Irvin put forth motion for adjournment.
- Blaine Clark seconded the motion.
- Motion approved.

Next Board Meeting: Monday March 16th at 7pm