

Longleaf School of the Arts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
322 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh NC  
March 26, 2018

5:33pm            CALL TO ORDER

- **Roll Call:** Rheji Burrell, Sabrina Francis, Stephanie Hawke, Chuck Hensey, Cheryl Hiser, Joyce Munro, Dorinda Peacock, Larry Williams
- **Absent with Notice:** Liz McDonald
- **Mission Statement:** Longleaf School of the Arts will develop students into confident, responsible, and successful contributors in college, career, and community through mentorship and a challenging curriculum that integrates academics and the fine arts.
- Agenda Approval: 2018/2019 calendar and graduation requirements were added to the agenda. Sabrina Francis moves to approve the agenda as amended. Joyce Munro seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Enrollment Updates
  - Two Juniors dropped from enrollment. One left to go back to their base school and a block schedule.
  - Joyce Munro asked that Connie Babb be instructed to correct the total attrition rate.
- Lottery/Acceptance Updates
  - Natalie Perkins presented the lottery and acceptance updates. All offers went out Thursday.
  - 73 students accepted their offers immediately.
  - 15 students declined. There is a question in the electronic offer that asked why they are declining below are the reasons.
    - Attend other public schools (7)
    - Attend other charter schools (5)
    - EC reasons (1)
    - Locations (2)
  - 24 students are now waitlisted
  - Natalie Perkins will start sending waitlist offers earlier than planned.
  - To date, 154 freshman and 25 sophomore have been offered admission.
  - The deadline to accept is April 9.
- 2018/2019 calendar
  - Barbara Pearson did a Google survey to the staff. The staff wanted to go by the original proposed calendar that Rachel Davis proposed last month. 68.8% of those who answered wanted to the 15 minute longer day. Two respondents very strongly felt they needed more days. Some people wondered if we could get more people if we were more closely aligned to WCPSS to make it easier to retain students.

- Cheryl Hiser presented the calendars, one with a start time of 8:30am and another with a start time of 8:15am.
- Stephanie Hawke presented the bus data. A start time of 8:15am would not allow time for students making bus transfers to get to school for an 8:15am start time.
- Chuck Hensey moves to keep the school start time at 8:30am. Cheryl Hiser seconds motion. The motion is approved.
- The Board asked Administration to make adjustments to the proposed calendar considering the approved start time of 8:30am and present the calendar at the next meeting. It is highly likely that the Board will have a special meeting before the scheduled April 30 meeting. Please be prepared to present at the special meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

- No new Business at this time.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Armistead: I've attend three consecutive meetings where a lot of time was spent talking about the calendar. It is hard as a parent to come in to a third meeting and see the calendar still being discussed.

Natalie Perkins: Potentially consider putting spring break leading up to Easter so the Spring Break doesn't run up against AP exams.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance: Joyce Munro
  - The Budget to Actuals is on track and we are continuing to see a better position due to conservative budgeting and planning.
  - Spring Fling raised \$3000.
  - The Overhead line item is over budget due to the extra expenditures required for the musical.
  - An update on budget planning processes was presented. The Finance committee is continuing to look at the phasing and development of the budget recognising we are in a period of transition. One of the things that we have discussed in looking at next year is the projected student count. We are looking at supporting an increased lease amount in the 2018/2019 budget and a student count that is in alignment with last year's budget. Providing transportation for this year dipped into our fund balance. The cost of providing transportation is cost prohibitive in any sort of capacity. The cost of providing transportation pulls money from the education funding. Denise Brown reported that they are encouraging the parent population to organize their own bus service.
- Facilities: Stephanie Hawke/Larry Williams

- Robodogs agreement was discussed
    - The Robodogs are using a space that LSA would like to use. Larry Williams and Rheji Burrell recommended that we need a different arrangement.
    - The administration reported that the Robodogs are in competition season. State competition is after the Easter Holiday.
    - Denise Brown is uncomfortable with the non-LSA students arriving to the school for after school Robodogs activities early. Some of the students arrive well before LSA's school day is over. She recommended that we need to have a memorandum of understanding.
    - The Board discussed the need to have a policy on the rental of the facility. Stephanie Hawke will compile what we have now and forward to the policy committee.
    - Stephanie Hawke moves to terminate the Robodogs memorandum of understanding. Rheji Burrell seconds the motion. The motion is approved.
  - Construction Update: Larry Williams reported that the builders are behind on the original build plan. There were issues getting the steel sign off. The sign offs are coming today and end of week. If we can get the steel by May, the building owner is saying that August is achievable.
  - Denise Brown reported on the intranet performance testing. E&A, intranet support vendor, felt that the Robodogs were causing issues. After unplugging their computers from the intranet, the teachers reported no difference in access speed. The testing is ongoing.
- Communications/Development: Liz McDonald/Cheryl Hiser
  - Spring Fling went really well. We had well over 200 people attend. Everything was inside due to the weather. Several new families were in attendance. There was great email from a prospective parent whose child talked to Ms. Franklin at the event. They accepted her placement at LSA after having the discussion with Ms. Franklin.
- Policy: Sabrina Francis/Chuck Hensey
  - Graduation Requirements were presented by Chuck Hensey. Current graduation requirements require 27 credits to graduate. With a total of 28 possible credits over 4 years, this allows a student only one possible course failure. To help with retention, the recommendation is to lower the credits and allow more flexibility to concentrate on academics.
  - The proposed requirements are as follows:
    - *English: 4 Credits (I, II, III, IV or AP equivalent)*
    - *Math: 4 Credits (I, II, III, plus one more post Math III)*
    - *Science: 3 Credits (A Physical Science, Biology, An Earth/Environmental Science)*

- *Social Studies: 4 Credits (World History, Civics and American History I+ American History II or AP US + 1 Social Studies elective)*
  - *Health/P.E.: 1 credit*
  - *Cognitive Development: 1 credit*
  - *Arts: 4 credits*
  - *World Languages: 2 credits in the same language*
  - *Electives: 1 credit*
- *24 Total credits out of a possible 28 with 7 credits earned a year*
- This proposal looks to maintain the rigor of Longleaf by continuing to require all students to take a course load which puts them on track for acceptance in one of the UNC schools. The committee removed 2 of the required arts credits and one elective credit from the list. The Cognitive Development course remains as a required course for all students. One concern of the committee was that students who struggle in their first year at Longleaf adjusting to the enhanced rigor might struggle to obtain 25 or more credits if they have failed multiple courses.
- There are fears from some policy committee members that this recommendation not honoring the School Founders' vision of the school.
- The Board discussed the endorsement track and asked what other similar charter high schools were doing.
- There was a question and discussion about Longleaf accepting high school credits earned during middle school. Currently that is not allowed but Cheryl Hiser suggested that Longleaf should consider allowing that and make that change as part of this policy change. Chuck indicated that the committee had discussed it.
- The discussion was tabled until the Policy committee could provide additional clarification on that issue.
- HR Committee: Chuck Hensey/Sabrina Francis
  - The Board completed finalist interviews Sunday, March 25. Background and reference checks are underway.

## HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

**Footloose, The Musical** was a great success! The students hard work paid off and they did a great job! Congrats to the staff that gave a lot of hours of their time for rehearsals and the planning that went into this. Additionally, a special thanks to Cheryl Hiser, who also put a ton of time into this endeavor as well.

**Spring Fling** was a success! Lots of families, alumni, and future squirrels. Love to see it earlier by a week or two and make it a part of Homecoming.

Cool things happening around March Madness in our classrooms, specifically in **Mrs. Malach's and Mr. Tyne Zimmerman's**. Beginning Theatre Studio is facing off some of the most dramatic figures in fiction to find out who is the most epic fighter of all! Mammal March Madness is an alternate [March Madness](#) tournament focusing on simulated combat between non-human mammals, instead of college basketball. The bracket is run by a team of evolutionary biologists, using science and probability to determine the outcomes of the fights. The goal of Mammal March Madness is to provide a fun and exciting way to spread scientific knowledge about the competing animals, as well as awareness for animal conservation.

There is a **Sophomore and Junior Parent Night** tomorrow evening. This is a planning session for the parents, on how to navigate the Junior and Senior years. An admissions counselor from Meredith will be on site to help answer questions about college admissions, college visits, and other questions that parents might have about what to expect for the junior and senior years and what to do and expect when applying to colleges.

**End of the 3rd quarter** is Wednesday. When we return from Spring Break, that will be the first day of the last quarter of the year. We are gearing up for the final push. April brings many performances, as does May, plus the AP Exams. There are EOC and AP exam study sessions. Both of these PLTs of teachers have been working hard to make sure that plenty of support is available for the students in preparation.

**Senior Breakfast** - Monday, April 9

**2018-2019 Enrollment** - acceptances were sent electronically on Thursday, March 17th. As of lunchtime today: 73 accepted, 15 declined, 24 wait listed

April 12th, the **Musical Theatre Class** is putting on a showcase in the Gallery. Not all of the students in the musical theatre class participated in the musical and they too have been working hard to hone their craft. Both classes will be participating in the showcase. Please join us! It starts at 7pm.

Lastly, **report cards go home on Friday, April 13th.**

**April 19th - Honor Roll & Dean's List Celebration** sponsored by LSAA

**Prom** - Saturday, April 21 in Venture Hall in Marbles' imax theatre. The theme is a Trip to the Moon, based off of the first ever picture film during the 20s.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Natalie Perkins: Thank you to the board for all the work you do. For the Teaching and Learning, the STEP group proposed adding the study halls which was included into the

schedule. Should we look at changing this? Are these study halls effective? This may help those who need academic support but is it effective for those who don't?

Brittni Doyle: Thanked the Board for allowing the community to attend the Head of School Finalist presentations and allowing the faculty and staff to stay for question and answer sessions with each of the candidates.

Rebecca Noble: Thanked the board and stated that she appreciates the high quality level of the candidates.

6:50pm        CLOSED SESSION

Sabrina Francis moves, pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(6) the Board will move into closed session for the purpose of reviewing personnel matters. Dorinda Peacock seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

OPEN SESSION

At 8:20pm, Sabrina Francis moves to resume open session. Chuck Hensey seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

There is nothing to report out of closed session.

8:23pm, Chuck Hensey moves to adjourn. Joyce Munro seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

Next Board Meeting Date: April 30, 5:30pm Longleaf School of the Arts