

## Learn4Life – South Carolina

### A South Carolina Not-For-Profit Corporation

**Date:** October 28, 2021

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Time:** 4:00pm ET

1. A Call to Order and Attendance

A Quorum was reached at 4:04 pm and the meeting was called to order, seconded and approved.

**Board Members:**

- Richard Thaler, Treasurer Present
- Dan Luginbill, President Present
- Todd Senf, Member Present
- Peg Harris, Secretary Present
- Sam Cooper, Vice-President Present

**Other**

- Sean Mathys, LLAC Present
- Steven Rayzer, Principal Present
- Adam Miller, LLAC Present
- Pat Hill, LLAC Present
- Anna Gibson, LLAC Present
- Chris Hodge, LLAC Present
- Jenara Noel, LLAC Present
- Anne Peterson, Consultant Present
- Mark Roberts, Consultant Present

2. Public Comment-There are no members of the public present

3. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2021 Board Meeting

→At 4:07 pm the minutes were approved and seconded

4. Finance Report- Presented by Jenara Noel. Report attached. Richard asked for a Budget to Actual section to compare to the annual budget. Richard asked to see it on a month-to-month basis. Cheri- We've heard from the state regarding funding. We will not be funded for the next four months-they've overpaid us based on enrollment as we fell short. We'll need to continue to really hit it hard over the next year. We will have another count at 135<sup>th</sup> day. If we hit our goals at the 135<sup>th</sup> day, the state will true us up. The federal funding will continue. We will be receiving additional funding in terms of 'esser' funds, which she will address in the principal's report. The leadership at LLAC was not surprised about the lack of enrollment as the school is opening brand new. It's not totally unexpected; we have a plan in place. \$289k is still left to draw down.

→At 4:24 pm the Financial Report was approved and seconded

#### 5. Approval Items:

a. Elective Courses: We are seeking the boards approval of Elective Courses, which can be added to our course catalog for the school. Many of the electives will be done via the computer, some face to face. These courses are fascinating but I am wondering how we are getting people to teach these course. We are getting support from LLAC to teach them. The local teachers can help to some extent. The online courses are offered through 'admentum'. Heddy Rose was a contemporary of Anne Frank and could teach at one of these courses, as offered by Richard Thaler.

→At 4:28 pm the Elective Courses were approved and seconded

b. Youth Tobacco Policy: This is requirement by the State of S. Carolina under very specific guidelines. Principal Rayzer has looked at these and needs to submit it. Principal Rayzer added that so far we haven't had any issues with tobacco or marijuana, for that matter. That said, we may also need to re-iterate a pornography policy.

→At 4:32 pm the Youth Tobacco Policy was approved and seconded

#### 6. Discussion Items/Reports:

a. Principal Report was presented by Steve Rayzer. Students: We've gone through our first report card phase. I have some Honor Roll students to celebrate, I also have some challenges. I've had a couple relationship issues, no fights lately. For the most part, we have a good core of students that come everyday and they are progressing through the courses. We've had several student referrals. We have over 68 interested and we are currently holding at 40. We had 3 orientations this week and two new enrollments. We had one student who left who was facing a disciplinary situation so her parents pulled her out. We are having an increased amount of IEP students and students from Department of Juvenile Justice and students from alternative schools. Our enrollment packet is being circulated to the alternative schools. Last week Dan and I met with the Dept of Student Recruitment. The fair just started so we are going to start sending people out there to start recruiting. We just emailed/mailed [?] all the judges that deals with truancy. We have three new staff members...Math teacher, Guidance Counselor and a new SPAD teacher. We also are looking into SROs. We recently were looking into acquiring a grant that would cover SROs for up to \$70k but I was informed that \$70k was not enough. So I need to use off duty officers through security firms. We'll need an SRO will my DJJ students and students from the alternative schools. Lastly, like Cheri said, we are going to receive ESSER funding 22k, 44k [emergency funding]. The ESSER funding is not tagged but it'll be spent on new staff. We are looking at adding a new staff member and looking at equipment to help the air circulate throughout the building. We are looking for a 'utility' teacher – to help with the 180 reading and math classes. She can help with front desk, recruiting, with teen mothers and more. We'd also like help with our Mental Health services and wrap around services [getting to and from school]. Some kids fear walking through their neighborhoods or they are not savvy/organized enough to catch the bus.

b. Staff Recruitment-See above, 3 new teachers

c. COVID Leave Policy: One of the things that Steven put in the ESSR 2 funds was to cover leave for teachers who are out because of COVID so they don't have to use their sick leave. In time, we will bring it forward for approval.

d. Student Recruitment and Enrollment: 68 interested and 40 students in the building; we average 25 students a day. We are reaching out to the 28 who are not coming in. We call them, I'm about to send certified letters, and in time, we will be able to do home visits. The counselor is coming from the DJJ but she also worked at Stall High School for three years before that.

e. Epicenter-Is a portal that we have to upload info into for the state including any of our policies. Due to the lack of staff, many of those duties fell to me, Cheri, LLAC to get the documents uploaded. Epicenter gives us a weekly test that we have to complete. We were a little behind but we've had a good dialogue with the state. They understand we are a new school and we are now on pace. We have one outstanding piece that deals with teacher observation. But the state doesn't offer the training often and the spaces fill up rather quickly. But I'm going to training in November.

f. Professional Development and LLAC Education Team Support-We want to continue to provide the Board with updates from the LLAC Team. We want the Board to be able to hear from two individuals to make sure our teachers are well trained and able to do what they want to do. I want to introduce Chris Hodge, he's our chief academic officer in LLAC. His staff works with schools across the country. Annie Gibson, she is the lead education person for S. Carolina. I work closely with them on all of our start up processes. Chris: Honor for us to support Cheri and L4L S. Carolina. Annie Gibson did a presentation on the training that's been done. It included staff dev training starting in August, on going professional dev occurs throughout the school year. The staff is part of us establishing the support plan. Teachers are taking action steps to reach their goals. We are working on implementation of curriculum, we have a mentor for Steven and points of contact. We are looking at how we orient students and what does student recruitment look like. We also look at NWEA, customized student learning programs, and the instructional model. Plus the support we receive from LLAC [Craig Besswick, Steven's mentor, Chris and myself].

g. Board Member Elections-Anne Peterson is going to share info about Board Member Elections. We are at a point where we need to have Board Elections as governed by our bylaws and by the Charter School Act. We will need to set elections within the next month, after initial appt all members shall be elected by Board Members and employees. Each employee gets one vote per open seat and each parent gets one vote per kid in school. The statute provides that you shall have in person voting at the school. The filing period must be open for ten days. We may need a special board meeting to determine an independent third party. We'll need to set the date and as a practical matter, Board Members will need to decide whether they are running again...and if so, for two years or for four years. We need to be able to determine how long people are serving for. We need to determine if it's 'at large' or single member. Anne is under the impression that it's the top seven vote getters. Dan added his friend Jeff Waggoner would be interested in being on our Board and he is willing to do it. He has a lot of contacts within CCSD. We had set up FOIAs months ago to look at what students were close to failing and CCSD is not giving them to us so we are trying to figure out how to get them to follow the law. This would let us identify kids who need us.

7. Closed Session- We do not need a closed session.

8. Open discussion- We do not have anything to add to Open Discussion.

9. Next Board Meeting – November 18, 2021 @ 4 pm ET. We will likely have a Special Board meeting between now and then. This is a hard deadline.

10. Adjournment-

→ At 5:25pm there was a motion to adjourn and it was seconded.