

**Meeting Minutes of La Tierra Community School  
Governing Board Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, April 16th, 2015 - 4:30pm**

**Present: Brian McVickers, Russell Erickson, Claire Louge, Sierra Smith, Julie Baker**

**Staff: Jennifer Roderick, Dawn Klaiber**

**Public: Tim Carter**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order - Brian McVickers - 4:38pm**

**II. Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of the March 19th, 2015 Governing Board meeting minutes.

**III. Action Items.**

1. Radio Ads for Open Enrollment
  - LTCS will run forty, 30-second radio ads from April 20-May1st and again July 27th-August 7th (Total cost = \$376.00)
  - Additionally, we will run a one-day ad in the Courier (print and online) May 20th in the Grad sections - featuring all the graduates in the tri-city area). This section gets a lot of attention from school-age families. (Total cost \$190)

**IV. Community Forum/Participation**

1. Presentation of La Tierra Community School's completed promo video - [https://youtu.be/qTPvxVw\\_tP0](https://youtu.be/qTPvxVw_tP0)
2. La Tierra Community School third and fourth grade class brings bees to the Prescott Community Garden.
3. Dawn, Jennifer and Anna to present our YCEF Grant plan for the LTCS outdoor reading lab.
  - Dawn shared the vision and drawing of our vision for our outdoor learning gazebo/kiva which will happen the week of May 18th. We will be pouring a concrete floor on the sandbox gazebo, creating a breathable enclosure of 5 out of 6 walls with bench seating for an outdoor classroom space of learning that will be tied to the further development of an intentional school garden - living learning space. YCEF supported this project with a match grant for the enclosure of our outdoor classroom space.
4. Tim Carter, Yavapai County Superintendent of Schools, presents offerings and opportunities from YCEF.
  - Works with four different foundation boards
  - Teacher of the year event - signature event and most known for
  - Mini grants is what YCEF spends most of their money on:
    - Teacher/Classroom mini grants - TCEF funds 20-35 grants a year
    - School match grants - YCEF funds about 2-7 a year. Mr. Carter suggests applying for a connected project for the school grant and suggests incorporating the notion of how our outdoor learning space will be applicable to learning in the classrooms in order to expand our vision of continuing to develop a school garden and outdoor space of intentional learning.
  - Mr. Carter suggested that we look to link grants to heighten opportunities:
    - For example, APS has fantastic grants that could tie to solar opportunities for a school garden.
    - Adopt a Classroom is an online opportunity where a global audience will adopt a classroom. Mike Elengood is the director.
  - For a foundation to be successful it has to be a win win win
  - YCEF offers training for prospective and or new board members four times annually, four hour

trainings. Once a year they hold a board member training that is specific to charters. YCEF is willing to develop training opportunities with a particular charter as long as they are willing to provide an open house for other charters. LTCS could craft the training with YCESA

- The board asked Mr. Carter about funding and he communicated state budget considerations:
  - Since 2008 the budget has gone down 35%
  - Therefore, students in kinder in 2008 (assuming it was fully funded, who are now in 6th grade, have never been in a fully funded classroom. It is an unfortunate state of affairs. Arizona is no 50th in the nation for school funding.

#### V. Director's Report (Jennifer Roderick)

1. March Masquerade - Youth Art Fundraiser - Sunday, March 29th 6:30pm-8:30pm, was a huge success. We had a great level of participation and raised a gross amount of \$1281.02. - last year to this year.
2. Re-Enrollment Count: Currently 101, last month we had 82 enrolled. Kindergarten: 12 (FTE 6), First: 21, Second: 18, Third: 21, Fourth: 16, Fifth: 11, Sixth: 2, Seventh: 2, Eighth: 4. Total with 7/8 101
3. Vacancies: Third, Fourth, and Seventh/Eighth Grades: Mr. Orr will teach 5th/6th as an inclusive classroom. We have decided to keep 5th/6th and 7th/8th as inclusive classes and discontinue the shared teaching model for SY16.

#### VI. New Business

1. New Board Membership - Introduction of Sierra Wilson and Julie Baker as potential new board members. Discussion and Possible Approval
  - a. Introductions: Sierra introduced herself and is excited to join our board as a committed parent of a kindergarten student who wholeheartedly believes in the mission of Expeditionary Learning, environmental and social diversity and the significance of service learning and learning through the outdoor world. She cares for the future of our school. Julie brings a background of social justice to the team and has been the school's active volunteer coordinator. Julie has a future kindergarten student and a current third grade student. She too believes in forwarding the vision and mission of LTCS.
  - b. Claire Louge made a motion to approve Julie Baker as a member of the LTCS governing board. Seconded Russell Erickson. Approved 3-0-0.
  - c. Claire Louge made a motion to approve Sierra Wilson as a member of the LTCS governing board. Seconded Russell Erickson.
2. FY16 School Year Calendar presentation. All dates align to PUSD scheduled breaks. We adjusted the long November break to be a shorter break in order to maximize the flow of learning in the fall and early winter months. Russell Erickson made a motion to approve the calendar as written with the addition of regular governing board meetings. Seconded Claire Louge. Approved 5-0-0.

#### VII. Old Business

1. Renewal of Lease at Current Site for 2015-2016 School Year and the review of new terms from Mr. Feldmeier. Claire made a motion to approve the amendment to the lease agreement with Mr. Bill Feldmeier as proposed and to approve Ms. Jennifer Roderick to sign on behalf of LTCS as the tenant. Seconded Russell Erickson. Approved 5-0-0.
2. Grade configurations for 2015-2016 - Discussion
  - Based on current enrollment, Brian made a motion to approve grade configurations as individual grades from k-5 and 6-8 combined
  - The board proposes that we have a cut off date for enrollment and a grade level cap for 6th--8th grade,
  - That new students entering the upper grades must have either attended LTCS for a minimum of two year and/or have a former teacher recommendation,
  - LTCS instigate an interview process,
  - We continue to refine the enrollment process, procedures and protocols for 6th-8th grades at

LTCS.

- Our policies must develop a model where we are very transparent about whether or not LTCS is, or is not, a good fit for children.
- Resolve that we have a program that is not designed to be a catch all, but an intentional and rigorous middle school program where learning is designed and implemented to prepare students for high school.
- We will continue to develop and refine this process as a cohort of teachers, administration and board member. The process will be presented to the board for approval in the future.

VIII. Financial Report presented by Jennifer Roderick.

1. The budget is balanced and in good shape moving forward into summer with a surplus. We do not see any glaring discrepancies in the budget this month.
2. The dates are set for FY16 budget adoption.
  - Date for FY16 Budget Proposal: Thursday, May 21, 2015 - Governing Board Meeting for May
  - Date for FY16 Budget Adoption: Thursday, June 11, 2015 - Governing Board Meeting for June

IX. Executive Session on personnel matters pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), Director Position

1. Brian McVickers made a motion to approve the Director's letter of resignation. Claire Louge Seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

X. General Announcements - None

XI. Motion to Adjourn - 6:15pm