



MINUTES of PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD of LA TIERRA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of La Tierra Community School and to the general public that a public meeting of the Governing Board of La Tierra Community School was held.

Time: Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 at 5:10pm

Location: Meeting was held virtually via ZOOM due to COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting notice and school website provided instructions for attending virtually as well as obtaining assistance with virtual attendance.

Meeting Type: Regular Session

Members Present: Sierra Wilson, Matt Hart, Bee Sena

Members Absent: Charles Mentken

Staff Present: Rhette Buller, Julie Jongsma, Dawn Klaiber, TerriLynn Stout

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

I. Opening Items

- A. Call to order - Sierra calls meeting to order at 5:13 pm
- B. Adoption of the agenda - Agenda approved without changes

Motion: Sierra	Second: Bee				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

- C. Approve Minutes from [12-16-20](#) - Minutes approved without changes

Motion: Sierra	Second: Matt				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

II. Information Items

A. Director Reports

1. Community celebrations: Thanks to a very generous donation by the Roberts family, turf has been installed behind the Kindergarten cottage. Dawn Klaiber (2nd grade teacher) has recycled our old learnpads generating income for the school.
2. Enrollment is at 86 ADM down 2.5. LTCS has donated items for upcoming Kindergarten fair hosted by the AZ Children's Association. LTCS marketing materials will be placed in free backpacks provided to new Kindergarteners. LTCS will participate in YCESA publication which has replaced their Teacher of the Year program. Will feature one of our teachers.
3. Student Achievement - Students are taking benchmark assessments this week. Rhette will disaggregate data, complete benchmark analysis report for site specialist, and use trends to create targeted achievement plans for students and staff who are struggling.
4. Personnel - Elise Nagat hired to replace SPED aide who resigned at the end of last semester. On Site Support numbers have been lower since children came back but directors have still been

providing back up in OSS room. YCESA nurses will vaccinate staff members Friday. Second dose 2/22. Not all staff are eligible for vaccine due to medical circumstances. Dawn Klaiber

5. Compliance - board will review site visit, annual and 10 year audit results at this meeting. Rhette participated in site visit with our school improvement specialist and created list of next steps. CSI grant revised. All other grants have been revised and approved. Rhette has started the Comprehensive Needs Analysis for next year. Despite LTCS being a B school, due to cancellation of AZ Merit last year, we are stuck in school improvement for a longer period of time. Unclear whether AZ Merits will occur this year. At this point they are still scheduled. The state requested a waiver, which was denied by the previous administration. However, new administration may enact new policy. LTCS will continue to prepare for AZ Merit. Both directors attended ESSER II webinar and Rhette is prepared for all necessary steps to acquire funding.

B. Board Report

1. Planning/Board Calendar -

- a) Board will hold mid-year check-ins facilitated by Leadership Coach Nancy Alexander in February as part of the ongoing LTCS Director Evaluation Process. Sierra is still waiting for staff completion of surveys.
- b) Board will need special session to work on data dashboard. Date TBD by board at this meeting.
- c) Salary schedules will be reviewed and if accepted, directors may begin to offer staff contracts for FY22. Board does not participate in the hiring of staff but will be notified of contracts issued and staffing changes as they happen.
- d) Marketing research in progress. Board may need special session to meet with Charter Schools Capital (CSC) representatives as well as accountant (Kristy Aston). Board may consider approving contract with CSC at such a session due to timing (contracts typically begin February 1st).
- e) Feb/March board will approve extra curricular activities and fee schedules, send out staff surveys, and review benchmark assessments.

2. Training

- a) No OML training scheduled through Aspire yet. Members are encouraged to attend Open Meeting Law Essentials webinar hosted by Board On Track January 27th.

3. Recruitment/Board composition - Board still lacking one member. Sierra will continue recruitment activities this month.

C. Finance Report

1. Budget Summary

Cash on hand as of 12/31/2020:	\$147,175
ADM:	86
Days Liquidity:	50
Projected Ending Cash Balance (June 2021):	\$133,317

Board reviews monthly financial reports. Budget is stable and in good condition considering low enrollment.

2. Financial implications of COVID-19

- The impact to school districts and charters due to the state funding students in distance learning at a reduced amount, 95%, has resulted in a very significant reduction (\$266 million) in statewide funding for school districts and charters. To put this reduction in funding for distance

learning students in perspective the total federal ESSER I funding for Arizona schools was \$277 million.

- The ESSER II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260 was enacted on December 27, 2020. Can be used for same things as ESSR I.
- Governor Ducey released his budget for Fiscal Year 2022. A major part of the K-12 budget proposal was \$389 million for "Student Focused Acceleration and Support to mitigate severe student learning loss". This starts with a plan to include an average of \$500 per student eligible for free or reduced price meals with an estimated cost of \$298 million. Another \$91 million is being proposed to help students who were enrolled in grades K-3, 8, and 11 during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Funding the 20% Teacher Salary Increase in FY 2022. This year FY 2021 was the last year of the planned salary increases. The existing funding is planned to continue for FY 2022 and future years. In FY 2021 an additional \$50 million was put into the Classroom Site Fund to be used to provide teacher salary increases for the last year of the 20x2020 plan. This \$50 million provided a ONE TIME increase of \$40 per weighted student in the Classroom Site Fund. However, for next year the plan is to redirect that one time funding from the Classroom Site Fund into the basic state aid formula by providing a permanent increase in the Base Level starting next year [FY 2022]. Since that additional funding will be added to the FY 2022 Base Level for FY 2023 and future years it will be scheduled annually for an inflation adjustment.

II. Public comments

Staff members TerriLynn Stout (6th/7th grade) and Dawn Klaiber (2nd grade) provide perspective about proposed hybrid learning plan.

III. Action Items

A. Salary Schedules

No revision requested for staff salary schedule.

Board approves director salary schedule with changes pending confirmation from Kristy Aston. No change to actual salary amounts but wording will change to reflect that both directors salaries are equal (instead of stating that Title I funds part of Academic Director salary, as this may not always be the case in the future).

Motion: Sierra	Second: Matt				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

B. Vision and Mission

The LTCS Vision and Mission were reviewed on 1/08/21 by staff in a professional development session facilitated by Executive Leadership and Professional Development Consultant Nancy Alexander to ensure that these two statements truly reflect “who we are and what we do.” School leadership decided to reexamine our Vision and Mission as this is good practice and is a part of our Integrated Action Plan for this year and our School Improvement Plan. The meaning of these documents was not changed but wording was modified to create a more concise version.

Board approves the following Vision and Mission Statements:

LTCS Mission

La Tierra Community School provides an experiential approach to learning and values respect for diversity, the whole child, and a commitment to social and environmental justice. Our program uses natural and cultural resources to foster relevant connections for children through learning expeditions. We value children's sense of curiosity and discovery; their ability to think critically, reflect upon their world, and promote positive change in their community.

LTCS Vision

Working together to nurture the whole child and inspire passion for learning.

Motion: Matt	Second: Bee				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

C. LTCS Roadmap to Reopening [Hybrid Learning Plan](#)

Rhette Buller and Julie Jongsma

Board and directors continue discussion and review (from December 2020 meeting) of updated hybrid learning plan. Sierra provides metrics data for current and proposed benchmarks and corresponding instructional models.

LTCS Current Policy

In Person: MINIMAL risk level. ADHS and YCHS recommend Traditional model.

Distance Learning: MODERATE or SUBSTANTIAL risk level. ADHS and YCHS recommend either Hybrid or Virtual model.

No Hybrid consideration.

Proposed Changes

Hybrid Model: Combination of MODERATE and SUBSTANTIAL risk level. ADHS and YCHS recommend Hybrid.

LTCS Benchmarks for Hybrid Instructional Model

Grade (#students)	K-1 (22)	2-3 (19)	4 (18)	5-7 (31)	
Benchmarks	At least ONE Health Benchmark in the Moderate Category	At least TWO Health Benchmarks in the Moderate Category	All THREE Benchmarks in the Moderate Category	ONE Benchmark in the Minimal Category	
Total Students on Campus **	22	A days - 29 B days - 34	A days - 47 B days - 52	A days - 65 B days - 65	

Grades 2-7 will be on campus in an AB model with each class spending 2 consecutive days on campus and 2 consecutive days in virtual learning. Rather than split each class in half, directors have chosen this strategy in attempt to mitigate loss of community to children who continue full time distance learning as well as reduce the hardship that too much “back and forth” could cause parents.

**Does not include up to 17 students in OSS.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Sierra asks clarifying questions about pressures staff would face teaching onsite children and virtual learners simultaneously. Suggests using ESSR II funding to hire aides to support teachers. Has concerns about exponential growth in community rate of spread corresponding to substantial risk (100/100,000 vs. current 566/100,000). Significantly higher rate of exponential growth with current numbers. Wants to be sure LTCS continues to consider the safety and welfare of staff and students as well as it’s role in protecting the larger community from high rate of spread. Does not want blanket policy allowing for return of students based benchmarks that do not take into account unknown future data. Fears hybrid model as written could place pressure to reopen solely on directors and would like ultimate decision to remain with Board. Bee provides insight about community and virus data which could change by the time some benchmarks are met. Many variables could make benchmarks more or less appropriate by the time they are reached. Matt states that board approval prior to a change in instructional delivery method allows flexibility to best meet the changing conditions related to the pandemic and guidance from ADE, ADHS and YCHS.

Board approves LTCS Hybrid Plan with stipulation that board approval is required before 2nd-3rd grades move to hybrid, before 4th grade moves to hybrid, and before 5th-7th grades move to hybrid.

Motion: Bee	Second: Sierra				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

IV. Information and Discussion items

A. COVID-19 Response - Board review of county data.

Current Yavapai County Metrics (as of 1/19/21)

15, 318 cases in YC. Up 531 since Friday.

Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial	Weekly Trend
Cases per 100,000			566 cases/100,000	Up from 529
Percent Positivity			30.4%	Up from 25.9%
COVID-like Illness			23.2%	Down from 25.9%

B. Marketing

Sierra presents information about Charter Schools Capital enrollment marketing program. Suggests special session to review with CSC staff and consider purchase of services.

C. Board reviews annual audit report. Julie provides clarifying information.

D. Board reviews 10 Year Charter Review Report. Julie provides clarifying information.

E. Board reviews AZ. Department of Education Site Visit Report. Rhetta provides clarifying information.

V. Information Items

A. Future Agenda Items

- 1. Data Dashboard - possible work session in March

B. Meeting Dates

- 1. Special Session to consider purchase of enrollment marketing services - February 3rd, 2021 at 5:10 pm
- 2. Executive Sessions to conduct Director Mid Year Reviews - Suggested February 17th, 2021 at 5:10 and 6:10 pm.

Motion: Sierra	Second: Bee				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

- 3. Regular Session - February 24th, 2021 at 5:10 pm

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Motion:	Second:				Vote: 3-0-0
Sierra: Aye	Matt: Aye	Bee: Aye			

Minutes submitted by Sierra Wilson on 1/21/21 at 12:00 pm.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached minutes were duly posted at the La Tierra Community School Office (124 N. Virginia St, Prescott, AZ 86301) and on the school’s website (latierracommunityschool.org) in accordance with the statement filed by the Governing Board of La Tierra Community School.

Office:

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____ at _____ [time]

By _____ [name and title of person signing the certification]

Website:

Dated this 21st day of January, 2021 by 12:00 pm [see website for specific time]

By Sierra Wilson, Governing Board President