



# LOTUS

SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE

## Lotus School for Excellence School Board Meeting Minutes

**Mission:** Lotus School for Excellence provides a safe learning environment and a rigorous college preparatory curriculum supported by a diverse, dedicated community.

**Vision:** Our vision is to create well-rounded and global minded citizens who are prepared for a college education in order to pursue careers in S.T.E.A.M. fields and become contributing members of the community.

<b>Date</b>	July 15, 2021
<b>Time</b>	6:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	This meeting will be held virtually due to COVID-19. Please click on this link to access the Lotus Board Meeting via Zoom <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87314076963?pwd=NmNKekVVOUJzTURjankvbmFZbm9Ndz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87314076963?pwd=NmNKekVVOUJzTURjankvbmFZbm9Ndz09</a>

<b>Board Members in Attendance</b>	Don Knapp, Board President Haregewoin Weledmariam, Board Treasurer Oguz Akkas, Board Member Nuran Yilmaz, Board Member
<b>Board Members Absent</b>	Angelina Velez-Reyes, Board Secretary
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	Tim Farmer, Attorney Mr. Bart Skidmore, CPA
<b>Executive Director</b>	Brett Williams
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	Taken by Sarah Cochran

1. Preliminary

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.1 Welcome and Call Meeting to Order	Board President	✓
1.2 Pledge of Allegiance	Board President	N/A
1.3 Roll Call	Board Secretary	✓
1.4 Edits to Agenda	Any Member	None
1.5 Adopt Agenda	Board President	<b>Action Item:</b> Agenda <b>Motion:</b> Nuran Yilmaz <b>Second:</b> Haregewoin Weledmariam <b>Outcome:</b> Unanimously approved
1.6 Approval of Minutes	Board President	<b>Action Item:</b> Minutes <b>Motion:</b> Nuran Yilmaz <b>Second:</b> Haregewoin Weledmariam <b>Outcome:</b> Unanimously approved

## 2. Public Comment

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	None

## 3. Consent Agenda

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Notes</b>
None		None

## 4. Action Items

Agenda Item	Who	Notes
4.1 Motion to approve the LSE Administration Salary Schedule	Mr. Brett Williams	<p><b>Motion:</b> Oguz Akkas  <b>Discussion:</b> Brett Williams presented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fair salary - improve quality of work, relational trust (not based on favoritism), improves likelihood of retaining staff.</li> <li>● Goal: Salary schedule/scale for every single position in the building</li> <li>● Max out at 10 year.</li> <li>● Charter Schools pay can be lower than public schools due to application requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Second:</b> Haregewoin Weledmariam  <b>Outcome:</b> Unanimously approved</p>
4.2. Vaccination requirements for LSE staff	Mr. Don Knapp	<p><b>Motion:</b> Nuran Yilmaz  <b>Action:</b> All Lotus School staff members required to get a COVID19 vaccination for the 2021/2022 school year.  <b>Second:</b> Haregewoin Weledmariam  <b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● APS superintendent communicated several weeks ago the topic of intending to mandate vaccinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “The mandate will be conditioned upon full approval of one or more vaccines...”</li> <li>○ APS anticipates mandating vaccination if and when vaccines become readily available and fully approved by the FDA</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Tri county health - governs us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They are quoting CDC guidance from July 9th.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lotus School plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fully returning to in person - full capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Including after school activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ No option of hybrid or remote learning</li> <li>○ Due to the size of the school and size of classrooms, we are not able to ensure 3 feet social distance requirements (per CDC suggestion). Therefore, we will be using, as CDC recommends, multiple layers of protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Masks for all students</li> <li>■ Plastic shields for staff</li> <li>■ Plexi glass on tables and desks</li> <li>■ Medify air HEPA filters in each classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No windows - 2 machines</li> <li>● With window - 1 machine</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ UV lights throughout the building, 99%</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p style="text-align: center;">sanitation and disinfection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It has not been brought to attention that any nearby districts are requiring vaccination.</li> <li>● Legality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If vaccines are required is there any liability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tim Farmer advised that if an employee has an at will (can terminate at any time) contract, you can require the vaccine with exception to religious or medical exemption. Many districts are not at will.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Agreements signed by parents regarding students getting COVID virus are not enforceable.</li> <li>○ Tim Farmer advised the board that if we were to require vaccination we would have to provide medical and religion (belief) exemption.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Withdrawal of original motion:</b> Nuran Yilmaz  <b>Change of Motion:</b> Lotus School for Excellence will align with APS and their decisions regarding vaccinations for the time being.  <b>Motion:</b> Oguz Akkas  <b>Second:</b> Haregewoin Weledmariam  <b>Outcome:</b> Unanimously approved</p>
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5. Reports

Agenda Item	Who	Notes
5.1 Financial Report	Mr. Bart Skidmore, CPA	<p>Closing fiscal year  Cash increase of half a million  Increase fund balance  Modify accrual to full accrual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Determine amounts owed to us and what we owe to others</li> <li>● Close of the books</li> </ul> <p>Year end estimate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Likely fund balance will be increased, similar to last year</li> </ul> <p>Audit scheduled for August 11th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Same audit firm</li> <li>● District has to provide year end reconciliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Once receive will book expenditures</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Audit will take place over 2 days</li> <li>● Lotus meets all requirements throughout the year so the audit goes smoothly.</li> </ul>

		<p>Cash positions have changed slightly. Financials are in great shape.</p>
5.2 Athletic Report	Mr. Deon Jackson	<p>End of the year update</p> <p>A lot of positivity in a situation that was different, still able to participate. Thank you administration for allowing our students to participate.</p> <p>Season D results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two qualified for states in track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senior and junior</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Junior placed 7th at states</li> </ul> <p>Fall Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hope to get back to a normal calendar</li> <li>● Middle School sports are back</li> <li>● Participation and numbers will be high due to middle school coming back</li> </ul> <p>Live stream available for all of our sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participation is key <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open to suggestions on how to boost participation from staff, students, and community.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.3 School Report	Mr. Brett Williams	<p>Monthly Report</p> <p>Strong ending to the school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graduation for seniors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Live streamed the event. Will continue this moving forward.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Celebrations were held for almost every single grade.</li> </ul> <p>Summer School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 230+ students between elementary and secondary met in person for summer school (25% of entire enrolment).</li> <li>● Will continue to develop a robust summer school program.</li> </ul> <p>Capital projects are still in process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Science wing - staff is beginning to move in</li> <li>● Modulars are wrapping up</li> <li>● Front of school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Turf is being installed on the median, planters and sidewalks have been rebuilt.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● New signage out front</li> <li>● Submitted demo plans for auditorium to the city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hopefully a few weeks away from start date</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Future performing arts center</li> <li>○ Will be reinforcing the arts going forward</li> </ul> <p>Student registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next week in person</li> <li>● Face scan temperature machines in place</li> </ul> <p>Teacher Inservice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● August 2nd through 10th</li> <li>● Prepare for upcoming year</li> </ul> <p>First Day of School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● August 11th for 1st - 12th.</li> <li>● Kinder the 18th</li> </ul> <p>Charter renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates to come</li> </ul>
5.4 School Board Reports	Any Board Member	None

## 6. Discussion

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Notes</b>
6.1 Board Self-Evaluation Update	Mr. Don Knapp	<p>Compilation of board report</p> <p>Two areas needing to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School accountability committee (SAC) - compile report for board (overarching data)</li> <li>● Sunshine law - training by Tim Farmer</li> </ul>
6.2 Location of Future Board Meetings	Mr. Don Knapp	<p>Moving towards in-person meetings.</p> <p>Don Knapp asked the board if they would like to stay remote or move to in-person meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Haregewoin Weledmariam: no objection to either</li> <li>○ Oguz Akkas: no objection to either</li> <li>○ Nuran Yilmaz: no objection to either</li> <li>● Board will likely stay remote for August to give Lotus a chance to finish construction and get set up for the start of school, but Mr. Knapps and Mr. Williams will make a final determination in a few weeks.</li> <li>● Will revisit in-person meeting plans during the August</li> </ul>

		meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possibility of hybrid: some meetings in person, some meetings virtual</li> </ul>
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7. Legal Training

Agenda Item	Who	Notes
7.1 Sunshine Law	Tim Farmer, Attorney	Brief overview - powerpoint presentation  Open Meetings Law requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Boards should make a good faith effort to ensure that most items discussed at the meeting should be on the agenda that is presented to the public.</li> <li>● Executive sessions requirements</li> </ul> Open Records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Content controls</li> <li>● Be mindful of what is put into writing</li> </ul>

8. Next Steps

Agenda Item	Who	Notes
8.1 Scheduling next board meeting	Board President	The next board meeting will be held on August 12, 2021  Board meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month, unless a holiday or motion is made to change it.
8.2 Requests for agenda at next board meeting	Board President	Tim Farmer - will present on following topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contracts - August meeting</li> <li>● Waivers - September meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are they similar and different than other districts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

9. Adjourn the Meeting

- a. Don Knapp 7:21pm

*Don Knapp*

8.12.21