



Lotus School for Excellence

**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.

Board Meeting Agenda 09.12.2024; 6:00pm  
11001 E Alameda Ave. Aurora, CO 80012

1. Preliminary

Agenda Item	Action	Who	Materials/Documents for Review	Time
1.1 Welcome and Call Meeting to Order		Board President	Kara, Underwood, Arslan, Kavi, Angela, Finance, Nalcaci, Nasir, Flores, Joselyn, R, Father, another person	1 min
1.2 Roll Call (Establish Quorum)		Board Secretary	Arslan Kavi Reyes Elchin -joined late 630 Keith -ab	1 min
1.3 Edits to Agenda		Any Member	board members position needs to open up (Go into discussion section of the agenda)	2 mins
1.4 Adopt Agenda		Any Member	Angela Motion Kavi-2nd vote -3 yeses	3-5 mins
1.5 Approval of August 22, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes		Any Member	<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T8sMm2WY2yfCnxS_puXKU4CwGrrK8MrX/edit?usp=drive_link&amp;oid=107678858046613347169&amp;rtopf=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T8sMm2WY2yfCnxS_puXKU4CwGrrK8MrX/edit?usp=drive_link&amp;oid=107678858046613347169&amp;rtopf=true&amp;sd=true</a>  Motion, 2nd, 3 yeses accepted unanimously	3-5 mins

2. Public Comment – The Board is desirous to hear the comments of the community. We invite you to address the Board concerning relevant, school-related issues. Public comment is not designed to be a two-way conversation, and members of the board will generally not respond to comments or questions. However, follow-up will take place as

deemed appropriate. No charges or complaints against individuals shall be made. Such concerns are better handled through the school's grievance process. Defamatory or abusive remarks or profanity shall be considered out of order and shall not be tolerated.

If a large group of participants wish to give the same opinion or speak to the same topic, the board may ask that a representative be appointed to share said opinion. The school board may choose to limit the Public Comment to 20 minutes for sake of time. Thank you for participating in our Public Comment.

Name	Comment
Jennifer Flores	<p>As a staff member, requesting every board meeting has a zoom meeting every single month and have knowledge and a say. We want to know first hand and not hear from someone else. Since covid, we know zooms are quite available.</p> <p>Provide microphones for those who are speaking. We can't hear from our homes.</p> <p>Safety- As a teacher and responsible party, concerned about safety and things that have transpired past few days causing our school to close. Asynchronous learning will happen Friday. We don't know why. I'm afraid for Joselyn's family, our students, and our school.</p> <p>There is security full time available all the time at my children's school. If a situation happens here like it did at my child's son last week who will provide protection.</p> <p>Arslan: you deserve an explanation</p> <p>Nalcaci: 2 senior kids involved in a fight last Friday. Discipline committee decided to suspend the kids for several days. Today came to our attention that there would be a fight. APD officer came and did an investigation and met with several of the kids and shared the rumors and information. He concluded the probability basis. To be safe we decided to call tomorrow for remote learning. We communicated with APS and they approved our decision for tomorrow. After that the message was sent to the community via text, email and we</p>

	<p>communicated with staff members.</p> <p>Arslan: We will discuss this again. Alright thank you.</p>
<p>Jeselyn Arriaga</p>	<p>Myself and my father are here to share some serious safety concerns. My father asked me to speak. Son, Joshua was assaulted. Hit first. Hold other student. 2 other friends of the aggressor pulled him off to continue. No supervision. Noone there to help. No one was trained. Fight broken up by a lotus parent. Not one person asked the aggressor to stay and explain what happened. Lotus kids posting all over social media. Joshua spent the night in the ER. Hernandez told him to not bring him back to the school for the soccer game due to the treat made. The treat leaves the whole family in danger. Admin can't tell them nothing. The threat is against us. We are treated like we are the other families. You are aware of this threat and we are not. We hold you personally responsible. What are you doing to ensure his safety, our safety. Lotus has to help. We are praying for our safety.</p> <p>Arslan: Both issues are related? yes  We need to talk about possible security interventions. This has been an ongoing issue on campus. We have discussed to have an onsite personal. It is time to discuss this matter seriously. We need on campus security watching over the issues. I'm not blaming the people but somewhere on the campus or out in the parking lot. Dismissal monitor by staff members. Modify the agenda to put this into a discussion item to hire security personal.</p> <p>motion, 2nd, 3 yeses.</p> <p>Kara -full time security person to help with traffic as well</p> <p>Arslan- there were some proposals in the</p>

	<p>past but it didn't move to the next level.</p> <p>Underwood: we need to look into a private security company per the officer.</p> <p>Rachelle: Explore conceal to carry, position on conceal to carry.</p>
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3. Consent Agenda –The entire consent agenda is a way for multiple items to be voted on and approved with one motion, one second, and one affirmative vote. Any Board member may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda, and if so it will be moved to the Action Items for further discussion.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
	Vote	Board Member		
	Vote	Board Member		
	Vote	Board Member		

4. Legal Compliance

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
				30 min

5. Reports

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
5.1 Financial Report		B. Skidmore	Expenditures through Aug 31st were 12.42% compared to 11.98% in the prior year. Revenues through Aug 31st were 17.29% of budget compared to 24.56% in the	10 min

		<p>prior year. For FY25, LSE will not receive Grant funding for Counselor or Nursing positions. Currently we are projecting a surplus of \$895,373. This would bring ending fund balance to \$4,366,040. The only two expense categories at 90% of their annual budget include textbooks and professional development. Professional development resources are also available in Title IIA. Both budgets are usually spent early in the fiscal year.</p> <p>See handout for FY 24-25 Balance Sheet Analysis, Financial Reporting Compliance, Debt Covenant Compliance, Legislative Update.</p> <p>Websites to track Legislative Bills  <a href="https://leg.colorado.gov/bills">https://leg.colorado.gov/bills</a></p>	
5.2 School Report		<p>Mr. Nalcaci Nalcaci-As of Tuesday enrollment is at 1030 students. 4th week for elementary and 5th week for secondary. Teachers are working hard. Some are working under stress and we discussed how to increase our teacher spirit. We had a diagnostic assessment for students. How to support lessons for our students. As Mr. Bart mentioned budgetwise, we are in good shape.</p> <p>Underwood-In the Elementary started club -Chess Club, Girls on the Run, Coding, (Boys on the Run). Started teacher</p>	15 min

		<p>committees. K12 Noche Latina-Sept 19th, 2024, Memes around to remind kids about expectations. (Kids created and hung up)</p> <p>PTSO- assigned 4 board members and volunteers. Enrollment 445. Requested and got approved for a .5 SPED teacher and 1.0 Behaviorist.</p> <p>Instruction-Interventions have started even for GT (50 minutes a day) K-5 based on Iready data and GT.</p> <p>Student Committees Student Council -Hoff will be the lead.</p> <p>Lotus Newscrew-Press reporters. Press badges.</p> <p>No Place for Hate-Student Coalition (4th/5th)</p> <p>Kara-Looking for part time control off duty officer. K-9 unit to go through the school. Huerta working on these items as well. We did secure a person for tomorrow but have that secured Monday through Wednesday to have a P.O. on campus. We are putting more people out there and in every corner. Make sure all ground is covered. About to stop enrolling. 550 6-12. Capacity, Traffic, Safety Members. Even in the budget we are at 55 students extra.</p> <p>Iready is almost finished for secondary students. Data being analyzed. ELL population. Only 20% are at</p>
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			<p>or above grade level. 20% are three years behind. We have a lot of work to do. Tested a translation device and may be able to use title grants. Especially for Math and Science this will work. Some students In H.S. AP classes going well. Middle school classes going well as well. Dual enrollment. AP diploma for students.</p> <p>Hallways are much better in the means of operations and opened another hallway area, opened that up for students so they can use the hallways and stairwells. Original starting point started in the hallway. Hopefully that will alleviate crowding.</p> <p>As far as seniors, NHS induction, and these students will get volunteer hours by helping in elementary grades.</p> <p>Robotics starting again. Science Fair with Parents and students and will qualify some of them to regionals. May compete with DPS.</p>	
5.3 School Board Reports		Board member	<p>Angela -Safety is of utmost importance</p> <p>Nasir-We will hear by the end of September an answer on securing the building. The grant would cover all classroom doors. If anything happens we can lock all the doors immediately. This will increase safety.</p> <p>Angela was invited for the first day of school, and wow what a difference a year</p>	30 min

			<p>makes. Thank you to admin. It felt like a night and day difference. LSE is back. It is going to be better. The vision and growth is simply amazing. Katie Louis was a guest speaker that day from the Charter School Institute. She gave a great report. Our challenges are with art, music, theater. Club are up and running as a start. You have healed the school and put it in the right direction.</p> <p>Missoula's Theater</p>	
				10 min

6. Action Items

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
Review and discussion of the 2024 Staff Handbook's Dress Code Policy, specifically addressing guidelines related to tattoos and body piercings		Nalcaci/ Ms.Hamm	<p>At our last board meeting, our board approved the 24-25 staff handbook. In the dresscode part there was request that the tattoos must be covered. Body piercings-not a lot. During the meeting there was some feedback through zoom and we decided to review this part for this meeting. Based on the feedback I'm suggested to updated. Tattoos must be covered if they are inappropriate, distracting, or offensive. We hope by adding this language this will help.</p> <p>If inappropriate, distracting, or offensive then we can ask them to cover it up.</p>	10 min



		<p>Kavi-Motion, Angela 2nd, 3 yeses.</p> <p>Angela-Piercings? Nalcaci is suggesting to keep to keep body piercings-nose, eyebrow, tongue piercings not allowed.</p> <p>Arslan: Something excessive to some isn't to others.</p> <p>Nalcaci: Didn't get feedback about piercings.</p> <p>Kavi: Should people get fired for having these.</p> <p>Angela: We work at children's hospital and we have colored hair, piercings, (Tongue not allowed).</p> <p>Underwood: 2 of my top educators have a type of nose piercing, a 3rd grade teacher with an eye brow piercing, being from Texas we never had an issue. If we got complaints from parents and I'd have the conversation with that person. Mr. Scobee (teacher of Colorado). I don't believe it takes away from the learning in the classroom.</p> <p>Nalcaci: I suggest to make a change for that part (piercings), I can take out the body piercing part (just no tongue piercings).</p> <p>Kavi: Offensive...we</p>	
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			<p>should add that part.</p> <p>Nalcaci; How do we define excessive.</p> <p>Arslan: As a teacher the person should be an example. Having tattoos, piercings is normalized. They're standing as a person in front of the student.</p> <p>Nalcaci: We don't allow students.</p> <p>Underwood: In all of my years, I have never had a student I want to get a tattoo or piercing because so and so has it. They see movie stars, singers, and are more likely to take on how they look or dress.</p> <p>Angela: We make a motion to remove the current piercings part from the dress code.</p> <p>Motion-Angela Kavi-2nd Vote-</p> <p>Arslan -No Kavi-Yes Angela-Yes Elchin-</p> <p>Kavi suggested Elchin abstain.</p> <p>Kavi: Rare vote.</p> <p>Decision: Body piercing part is removed.</p> <p>Tattoo okay, if distracting,</p>
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			remove.	
				5 min
				10 min
				20 min

7. Discussion Items

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
Accountability committee meetings need to be scheduled and the committee needs to regroup and reconvene	Discuss	Kavi	<p>SAC - School Accountability committee and needs to meet quarterly. We need to meet 4 times a year. We didn't have parents last year.</p> <p>Colorado Charter School Institute. 1 teacher, 3 parents, at least 1 adult member of ptsa, 1 committee member, community member. Parents can't be employed by the school. Kavi will continue to represent the board. Chair or Co-chair needs to be a parent.</p> <p>Audam willing to help. (comment in zoom)</p> <p>As an action item can we schedule the meetings.</p>	10 min
Board Member	Discuss		<p>Ray Keith -last meeting he was at was March 2024 (He is no longer a board member).</p> <p>Kavi- We need a parent</p>	5 min

			<p>board member and encourage them to apply.</p> <p>Flores: How will people know that a position is available on the board. Ask them to send in a letter of intent.</p> <p>Kavi: Parent scan send interest at anytime.</p> <p>Nalcaci: July 25th he sent an email to you. I apologizing for sending this to you. I have not been able to consistently attend meetings to work. I want to submit my letter of resignation. (July 25, 2024. (Nalcaci will reforward to all of the board members).</p>	
Missoula Children's Theater	Discuss	Angela	<p>Currently don't have a theater teacher at the moment. ANgela spoke to Kara and Nalcaci, Underwood, Terri Benton. We had them come last year. They have been doing this for over 30 years. Usually 2 plays, one on a Friday and Saturday. They provide everything. We only need to provide an accompanist. I would like to propose this for a Spring production. The school absorb the cost so they know what a theater production is. I'm very passionate about this and theater, arts, and sports kept my kids in school. We don't want to lose any ground. Ms. Gunther did an amazing job with the</p>	10 min

			<p>Secret Garden last year.</p> <p>The amount we are willing to spend may need to go to the board for a vote. Will bring a proposal to the next board meeting.</p>	
Board Report from last time				10 min
Security	Discuss		<p>Arslan: had discussed that there are no guns or knives on the premises in the school. Had a previous discussion about having a trained personnel to provide security on campus. There were some concerns about someone having a gun on campus. We need to discuss this to increase the safety of staff and students.</p> <p>Angela: Yes we need full time on site. What those hours look like we need to discuss a budget and making sure after school activities are covered. We do need to look at an armed, fully trained personnel. Not for concealed to carry. The ungun is something new out there. It is better than a stungun. Used in defense only. Or maybe stunguns or something maybe like that. We also need to take into consideration the liability.</p> <p>Kavi:  \$20-40 unarmed per hour  50-70 armed  50-100 per hour (highly</p>	

			<p>trained police officer)</p> <p>Nalcaci: I need to work on that and get quotes. It can be armed/unarmed. Get a quote from a security company or we can consider hiring our own. A retired police officer. We did make contact with APD. \$85 per hour and minimum day is 4 hours.</p> <p>From the public comment at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>We initially didn't mention about it being a gun threat to not cause panic. For the safety of our staff members we decided to go remote. We came together several times with our admin team before we finalized our decision.</p> <p>Kara: found out someone in the hallway started the rumor. We found the base.</p> <p>Nalcaci: With attendance and the impact of the school day we decided to go remote.</p> <p>For the incident that happened, it happened during dismissal time. 323p</p> <p>Some parents delay to pick up kids that is the parents fault not the students. It is unsafe to have the students into the</p>	
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		<p>parking lot. I believe the safety level of our campus is acceptable. Things happen at campuses and are unexpected. Let me work on options, and look at the cost, and hopefully we can discuss at the next board meetings.</p> <p>Angela: (clarifying)</p> <p>Kavi: How about additional security, mentioning metal detectors.</p> <p>Nalcaci: I'm against those. They are problematic. I don't think we are there to install metal detectors. They are problematic to use.</p> <p>Arslan: We had concerns with students passing through detectors.</p> <p>Angela: and the flow as well. But maybe we can revisit that.</p> <p>Kavi: How about CCTV...is someone watching them all the time.</p> <p>Nasir: no, but we have 24 hours recording.</p> <p>Kavi: at my company we had someone watching all the time.</p> <p>Nasir: The only place to put a detector is in one hallway... other places are too tight. They also</p>	
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		<p>suggested to have a guard next to each detector (trained personal).</p> <p>Underwood: Maybe the wand. SRO watching cams but at arrival/dismissal/lunch he was present.</p> <p>Listening to the news in Georgia, maybe look at a panic button. Not having to wait on the front office or admin. It would be nice where they could communicate silently. Depending how many times you tapped it sent out EMS, Fire Department, PD etc.</p> <p>Angela: Maybe it is a code</p> <p>Underwood: If the state of Georgia has it, maybe we can look at that.</p> <p>Nasir: We have panic buttons for staff. We have capability we need to purchase and program those.</p> <p>Underwood: I think those are nice for students harm self or others.</p> <p>Nasir: Communicating classroom by classroom. (1-1 conversation with admin).</p> <p>Flores: Her family is not safe and they don't know what they are safe from. Her brother hasn't left home since Friday. I don't</p>	
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			<p>know what to say to her when I say goodbye tonight. I don't want a casualty. Her father is going to homeschool brother. Think deep think hard about their family. They don't know why. Don't think just about future plans. You have security coming, you closed school. . . This boy knows where they live. We are scared for her. We have children and families too.</p> <p>Arslan: It is a rumor. There is no evidence. But to be on the safe side we shut down school for tomorrow. We are going to deep dive to have someone on site.</p> <p>Angela: We are taking in everything into account with APD.</p> <p>Kara: We know who's backpack to check. We have a plan in place. We talked with APD and APS. Bring him to my office first and we go to the first class first. The other side is covered.</p> <p>Arslan: We will secure a meeting to discuss.</p> <p>Nalcaci: Is it full day?</p> <p>Kara: I will follow up. If someone says they can come we can use private security.</p>	
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			<p>Nalcaci: We have so many new students and families. It takes time to learn them and follow discipline guidelines. Dean-Ms. Hernandez is working pretty well. We will post behaviorist position. Don't have many behavior issues in Elementary but we still decided to hire.</p> <p>Kara: We were also approved for another paraeducator. We don't want teachers to have duties.</p>	
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8. Next Steps

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Materials/Documents for Review</b>	<b>Time</b>
5.1 Adjourn board meeting		Board President	Motion to adjourn-Angela Kavi-2nd Arslan -yes 3 yeses	2 min
5.2 Scheduling next board meeting		Board President	October 10th, 2024 Onsite and post zoom link. Kavi-there is a way to create a permanent link. When we go to executive session we can start a new link or turn it off.	2 min
5.3 Request for agenda at next board meeting		Board President	Please email discussion items.	2 min