

Jacksonville Lighthouse Academy

Board Meeting

September 8th, 2009

Members Present: Mike Ronan, Kevin McCleary, Kimberlee Sia, Rebel Wilson and Keri Urquhart

The room was full of members of the community for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Keri Urquhart.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Sia to appoint Curtis Baugh to a two-year term on the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Mr. McCleary to appoint Curtis Baugh Board Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Ronan and seconded by Mr. Baugh to approve the minutes of August 17, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

President Kerri Urquhart presented new JLA hires--Aletta Larry as Administrative assistant and Randi Sundermeier as school nurse. A motion was made by Keri Urquhart to approve the new hires. The motion was 2nd by Kimberlee Sia. The motion approved.

Operations Report. Presented by Ms. Livingston.

Ms. Livingston presented the Principals Report. JLA student body filled 345 seats. Ms. Livingston invited all parents to our first Parent-meeting on September 17th 5:30 PM. Mike Ronan thanked Ms Livingston for the High standards and expectations of the administration and staff.

Facility Reports presented by Mike Ronan.

Draft for new Playground was presented (see attached plan view). Mr. Ronan will draft a letter to First Baptist Church (north of the school grounds) to lease the area requested for the playground. Curtis Baugh asked if the playground would have a fence and the response was it would have a fence but it would be a "low" fence.

Opening of the school would be Tuesday 13th of October. We would begin to move on October 9th.

A motion was made by Kevin McCleary to pass the facility report and it was seconded by Curtis Baugh.

Financial Report by Rebel Wilson: Presented Health benefits with an Annual Premium Marketing Summary (attached). Presented a letter from Bob Stearns Vice President of Finances LHA, Inc. (attached). Mrs. Wilson noted the budget to purchase a school bus is on hold and transferred the budgeted amount for a Dean of Students (Dean of School Culture). Curtis Baugh questioned the responsibilities and need for this position. Ms. Livingston responded and explained this person's role. The audience participated in this discussion. Jody Urquhart (audience) noted he believed this position was "not necessary and there should be an open door policy from parents to principal". Ms. Livingston responded and made it clear "I am available and I return phone calls, the school has a very open door policy" and "does not call this a blockade". A woman (audience) "This is a very wise thing to add new position". Man (audience with blue shirt) "plenty of kids are on the school list and maybe this D.S. position is important". Ms. Livingston notes, "Parents are working with us and we are doing everything possible to help the children. Please trust me. Let's talk and plan".

Mr. Ronan observed "no children have been removed from school for discipline issues" 10 office disciplines have occurred since the beginning of the year. 6 occurrences from one student and the rest were from 4 different children" "How many people in the audience have been a part of a brand new school? One person in the room noted that they started in a brand new school in the past. This is a rare and unique opportunity to be a part of attending a brand new school.

Susie (audience) noted her child missed one day due to sickness. While she was out for the day, the whole class was disciplined for an unknown infraction. When her child returned, she served a class discipline of missing "spark time" (recess). Ms. Livingston noted group discipline was not acceptable and she would correct this problem and make it clear group discipline will not be accepted.

Mrs. Rebel Wilson noted, "She joined the board to address discipline issues that haunts the Jacksonville Middle Schools" She feels the JLA will be instrumental in "nipping it in the bud" referring to discipline issues. She is thrilled to be a part of JLA.

Kevin McCleary made a motion to approve the budget for the month with amendments for Dean of Students position to provide further analysis and to provide more research on the cost of student lunches that are currently \$3.50 per lunch. Curtis Baugh seconded the motion to be approved.

Audience question and answering section:

1. Teachers need 30 minutes for lunch breaks and really need more “time away” during a single school day. Suggestions are to add “lunch ladies”.
2. Where is the “rule book?”
3. Children can only go to the restroom twice a day.
4. Children need more time to eat their lunch.
5. Will there be a library in our school?

Ms. Livingston responded—she will extend lunch to 30 minutes for children and teachers as soon as possible. Handbook (rulebook) is posted on the web site now and will be passed out to students very soon. A new Library will be in the future in the new building. She asked for book donations and stated it will take a “little while” for the library to be established. Here in our current building we do not have space. We will lease a bus at times to transport children to local library.

Man (audience) asked if a parent organization would be established. Ms. Livingston noted that this would be discussed in the Parent-Meeting on September 17th.

Roger Sundermeier (audience) expressed his passion for this JLA and noted there will be hick-ups in the start up of a new school. A lot of the problem is JLA was not aware of how parents here in Jacksonville really want to be involved. Parents here truly desire to serve in our new school.

Mr. Ronan noted Jacksonville is a great community and he never met a parent that did not want the best for their own children. He agrees JLA will set up an effective volunteer program but it needs to be carefully thought out before progressing. You must be very careful to keep administration and the proper authorities in charge and that parents cannot run the administration. It is very important to keep the balance in mind.

President Kerri Urquhart asked if there were any additional questions directed to the Board of Trustees. Please hold your questions for the Parent-Meeting on September 17th at 5:30 pm. We needed to adjourn our Board of Trustees for the evening. Mrs. Urquhart made motion to adjourn and Kimberlee Sia seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourns 7:35 pm September 8th.

Next Meeting October 13th 7:30 pm

Curtis Baugh, Secretary

