

## **Limestone Charter Association Full Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm, Virtual

### **Directors Present**

Jeremy Whitaker  
Lee Sowell  
Wendy Wells

Bridgett Fowler  
Sedric Webber

### **Directors Absent:**

Michelle Combs  
Nathan Copeland

Bridgett Fowler called the meeting to order.

Ms. Fowler asked if public notice had been made of the meeting, Angel Malone answered that it had. There was no public comment. Ms. Fowler read the mission statement.

The Limestone Charter Association Mission was stated on the agenda.

**Action:** Motion to adopt the agenda – all were in favor – Approved

**Action:** Motion to approve the minutes from a Special Called meeting that was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. -- Approved

### **Superintendent Update:** Angel Malone

- Mountain View Prep had their ribbon cutting ceremony with this being their first year opening and cutting the ribbon on their new home. Bridgett Fowler was able to attend to represent the Board along with several LCA staff. They are a CTE focused school in Sports Management and Entertainment.
- School Leaders Retreat was held on July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at Segra Park. We started out with a new logo which has the elements of Limestone University and Limestone Charter Association to make sure we show that connection. We also added a new website, social media pages, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

The School Leaders Retreat is a time where we come together, bring those school leaders in, we teach about the limestone way and talk about where we're going for the year, meet one another, build community of practice. Also meet some of our vendors that can help them as they move through the school year. Our Theme this year was "A League of Our Own" because that's what we know, and we believe what we're doing that sets us apart.

Angel introduced our new team members – Gina Edwards, Student Information Systems Coordinator, Dr. Fran Metta, Director of Special Services and Zebulon Dinkins, Information Technology Coordinator.

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We kicked off the retreat with Bakari Sellers, CNN Correspondent, New York Times Bestselling Author and an Attorney. He talked about Dreaming with your Eyes Wide Open. We also had Mr. Sam Shigani, CEO and Founder of Smart Energy Solutions, and he talked about building charter communities. We were able to give a Lifetime Achievement Award to honor Senator Nikki Setzler, housed here in Columbia. As he's leaving the Senate, we wanted to highlight his success, understanding that he is the longest sitting senator in the US.

We also highlighted that we had four graduates who graduated with no debt, no charge to them from our MED Program at Limestone University.

This year we added six more schools, now serving 13 and anticipate for the upcoming year that we'll be up to 20 schools. We would like to welcome our new member schools and their school leaders, Oceanside Collegiate Academy, Legion Collegiate Academy, DSC Preparatory Academy, SC Preparatory Leadership School.

We wanted to make sure we awarded and recognized our teachers who are invaluable and make sure that we show them that we appreciate them. This year we had four finalists for Teacher of the Year. Debra Mexas, Coastal High School, Olivia Lewis, Goucher Charter Academy, Avella Keys, Global Academy and A.J. Chambers, Horse Creek Academy. The finalist received an award and \$500 prize. Our Teacher of the Year was Ms. Latoya Miller with Orangeburg High School for Health Professions, she is an English Teacher. She received an award and a cash prize of \$1,500 and will represent us at the district level and attend all the state meetings as well as apply for State Teacher of the Year.

### **Action: Transfer Policy Proviso 1.105**

- The Proviso 1.105 allows schools to transfer from an IAT authorizer if they're in warning status with their accrediting body. That allowance has made it possible for some schools to elect to transfer separate from what the law says, the permanent code of law says, which is that there has to be an agreement between the authorizer that they're coming from and the authorizer that they're going to. The transfer policy that is in alignment with Proviso 1.105 deals with unilateral reassignment of a contract if there is an issue with an IHE authorizer.

Key highlights in the Proviso is that if a school wanted to transfer prior to the academic year starting, They needed to submit July 31st, and that's a date because schools are starting earlier now. And then mid-year, if they still wanted to transfer within an academic year, as long as the proviso is in

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place, there's an opportunity in mid-year. And then there's an opportunity at the end of the year. So, you see the timeline there for that. And we do need to have a vote in action on the resolution of the transfer policy in accordance with Proviso 1.105.

Motion to approve the Limestone Charter Association's resolution to address Proviso 1.105 other charter school transfers --- Approved

### **Action: Charter School Amendment and Contracts - Donna Manning**

- We have two schools requesting charter amendments - Coastal High School is up first and as you recall; Coastal High School came from before the board previously with an amendment to add a middle school component to their current charter. And with that amendment they asked for an additional 200 students for the middle school level and the board did approve that previous amendment. Coastal High School is currently building a new facility with a greater student enrollment capacity than their current building. And with that, Coastal High School is now requesting to amend their charter to increase the enrollment at both the middle school level and the high school level. So at the middle school level, they're requesting to go from the previously approved 200 students up to 300 students. And at the high school level, they're requesting to go from 440 to 520 students.

Motion to approve Coastal High School Enrollment Increase --- Approved

Oceanside Collegiate Academy is requesting two amendments to their charter- The first part of their amendment is to add additional flex days to their calendar. They're asking to add an additional 10 flex days, LCA has reviewed the request for the 10 flex days, and this is in compliance with the current academic calendar that contains the state mandated 180 days.

Motion to approve Oceanside Collegiate Academy's amendment to their charter adding 10 flex days --- Approved

Oceanside Collegiate Academy second amendment addresses the application and the lottery process. Instead of their applications being distributed as defined in their charter by printing out an application and handing them out at community events, they would like to change that language for it to be posted electronically on their website.

The second piece of the amendment is to amend the lottery process, not just to have a lottery for the Overall enrollment, but they would like to do lottery by grade level.

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Do we have a motion to approve Oceanside Collegiate Academy's amendment to their charter regarding lottery modifications per grade? --  
Approved

Contracts – there are two types of templates for the contracts, there were new schools without management companies, and there were transfer schools with management companies. The new schools without management companies were for CoLearn Academy SC, Grand Strand Charter Arts, Harrisburg Global Academy, and Horse Creek Academy Kershaw. You will see the term offered if for 10 years.

On the transfer schools, they have management companies, which has additional language in there regarding management companies and the legalities between the contracts between the school and the management company. You'll notice that the term dates are different because those contracts are awarded based on the remaining balance of the transfer schools charter from when it was originally established.

The contracts have been reviewed by each of the school's boards and their attorneys, and then also by LCA staff and our attorney. We found the terms presented by all the schools acceptable, and we are requesting a motion of the board to approve all seven of the contracts for the new and for the transfer schools.

Motion to approve the charter contracts for Colearn Academy, Grand Strand Charter Arts School, Harrisburg Global Academy, Horse Creek Academy, Kershaw, Legion Collegiate Academy, Oceanside Collegiate Academy, and South Carolina Prep Academy --- Approved

### **Action: Finance Update – Kelly Richardson**

We are still wrapping up and closing out fiscal year 24. So that is still very preliminary. Our auditors will be in, they did preliminary work back in May and they'll do their final field work the week of September 9th. Our schools' audits are due to us by November 1st that will roll up into our audit and then that'll be the schools that were in existence through June 30th, 2024. And then our audit is due to the State Department of Education by December 1st. So we will be working on closing out fiscal year 24, but I'll be happy to answer any questions you have on that one.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn --- Approved

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Respectfully submitted,



Bridgett Fowler  
Secretary to the Board of Directors  
Limestone Charter Association



Jackie Washington  
Office Manager  
Limestone Charter Association