

**LIBERTY COMMON SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
BUSINESS MEETING**

MINUTES

August 29th, 2024
Liberty Common School – Aristotle Campus
2130 West Horsetooth Drive, Fort Collins, CO

Board members in attendance:

X	Raven Banning
X	Pete Conrad
X	Elizabeth Barber
	Patrick Albright
X	Mark Dollar
X	Mindy Story
X	Elizabeth Timpe

Administration in attendance:

X	Headmaster Bob Schaffer
X	Principal Robert Robinson
X	Principal Casey Churchill
X	Principal Sandy Stoltzfus
X	Assistant Principal Kathleen Kearney
X	Assistant Principal Jenna Allen
X	Assistant Principal Chris Reynolds
X	Director of Operations Bev Hanawalt
X	Director of Advancement Brett Harkey
X	Director of Finance Noelle Currell
X	Athletic Director Franklin Russell
X	Director of Policy and Compliance Sarah Hunt
X	Communication Specialist Kallie Cooper
X	Director of Information Technology Sean Lewis
X	Headmaster Support Specialist Marjorie Fallon

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER 6:02 PM

- Approve agenda

STAFF AND COMMUNITY COMMENT – (two-minute limit per person)

ROUTINE BUSINESS

- Approve Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 27th, 2024
- Approve Minutes – Special Meeting – August 14th, 2024

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- School Safety Team and School Safety Report (Public Session)

NEW BUSINESS

Motion: Mr. Dollar

Move to Executive session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(d) concerning specialized details of security arrangements:
School Safety Team and School Safety Report (Executive Session)

Second: Ms. Story

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
Y	Elizabeth Barber
Y	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
Y	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

Pass 6-0

- Executive Session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(d) concerning specialized details of security arrangements:
School Safety Team and School Safety Report (Executive Session)

Executive session ended at 7:04 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Headmaster Report – Mr. Schaffer

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

- Determine topics for quarterly BOD education sessions – Ms. Timpe
- Review board member assignment of Liberty Common Sense articles for 2024-2025
- Assign board members responsible for 2024-2025 headmaster support and evaluation
- Approval of hiring accompanist for 2024-2025 LCHS choir

Motion: Mrs. Timpe

Move to accept Meri Barber as the accompanist for LCHS and that it does not constitute a conflict of interest for Mrs. Barber.

Second: Mr. Conrad

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
abstain	Elizabeth Barber
Y	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
Y	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

Pass 5-0

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic Advisory Committee – Ms. Barber
- Advancement Committee – Ms. Banning
- Building Corporation and Expansion Committee – Mr. Albright
- Financial Accountability Committee – Mr. Dollar
- Governance Committee – Ms. Timpe
- Parent Education Committee – Ms. Story
- Policy Committee – Mr. Albright
- Security Committee – Mr. Dollar

TOP THREE ITEMS FOR COMMON SENSE NEWSLETTER: Patrick Albright

- Security
- Traffic suggestions in general (at high school drop off on the close side and no jaywalking), carpooling
- Tenure of faculty

Motion to move to executive session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f) concerning personnel matters

Motion: Mr. Dollar

Second: Ms. Timpe

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
Y	Elizabeth Barber
Y	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
Y	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

Pass 6-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:24p.m.

- Executive Session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f) concerning personnel matters

Adjourned at 8:24p.m.

Motion: Mr. Dollar

Second: Mr. Conrad

- Executive Session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on an impending OCR matter and open meeting law issue.

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
Y	Elizabeth Barber
Y	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
Y	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:04 p.m.

- Executive Session per C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on an impending OCR matter and open meeting law issue.

Adjourned 9:41p.m.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

- Consideration of acceptance of OCR resolution agreement

Motion: Mr. Dollar

Motion to accept the OCR resolution agreement.

Second: Ms. Timpe

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
Y	Elizabeth Barber
N	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
N	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

Pass 4-2

Mr. Dollar motions to leave the record open for further remarks.

Motion: Mr. Dollar

Second: Ms. Story

Vote type: Roll call

Result:

Absent	Patrick Albright
Y	Elizabeth Barber
Y	Raven Banning
Y	Pete Conrad
Y	Mark Dollar
Y	Mindy Story
Y	Elizabeth Timpe

Pass 6-0

COMMENTS regarding OCR Resolution

Pete Conrad: On principle, I am opposed to the findings of the OCR resolution, and believe a follow-up, fair hearing of the case would show it to be without merit. As a parent of a student with an IEP, I can attest to the school's investment in and care for my child's education. Specifically, the Academic Support Team involved in my child's education is thoroughly involved in every aspect of the student's development as a scholar and a person. Based on my own experience, I am completely confident the AST response to the unfortunate event with regard to Mr. Campbell's education and well-being would be categorized as above-and-beyond. An IEP meeting, while important, would have been a formality and a review on steps already taken. All responses from all faculty/staff involved was swift and appropriate. The unfortunate reality is requesting a hearing comes with limited upside and tremendous cost to the school. The optics are not favorable with either decision LCHS could take, and, in fact, continuing to fight could be perceived as caring more for appearance than the education and well-being of our students. This would be furthest from the truth and, ultimately, why I felt the board made the correct decision to sign the resolution. It is my sincere hope by accepting this resolution, the LCHS faculty, staff, and BOD can continue to do what we have always done: provide the best environment for the strongest education available in this great country.

Elizabeth Timpe: I am opposed to the findings of the OCR resolution based on my understanding of the case. I think the school should be allowed a chance to appeal the findings but understand that the appeal process would be more costly than deemed financially responsible for the school. The school had no choice but accepting the OCR resolution due to the political system in place which I find very unfortunate.

Raven Banning: I am disappointed in the way cases are handled by the OCR. Not allowing the school administration and board to see what their "findings" were until after the resolution was signed is completely unjust. They are strong-arming schools to make sure that they do exactly what OCR wants them to do without any recourse for the schools themselves to dispute the claims. While I agree that there should be standards on how these cases are handled, there are no actual policies the OCR has in place for schools to follow that I could find, so what exactly are they basing their findings on? Liberty responded as quickly as possible and made sure discipline was made where necessary.

ADJOURN 9:53PM