

**Executive Director Board Report - May 2023**

**School News**

* We had a HUGELY successful close of the year on the PFSA event front – PFSA leadership did a phenomenal job appreciating our staff earlier this month during Teacher Appreciation week (from food to fun - it was a global adventure). We also hosted a tremendously successful 2nd Annual International Festival with over 50 volunteers and 1,000 participants. Everyone had a safe and fun day.
* Band and Choir are wrapping up their program year – competitions have gone well (in historically significant fashion ;p) and the spring concert is planned for the evening of Thursday, May 18th.
* Professional Development is wrapping up at each grade level for the year. Directors will continue to meet with Peaceful Schools over the summer to continue discussing and modeling difficult conversations/evaluative practice and also how our team interacts when under extreme stress (April/May and August/September being the pressure points in each year).
* We have posted our vacancies and are interviewing to fill those – we will have a more robust staffing update to the board in June.
* Our Testing Calendar has been finalized and we are preparing for that last push of practical life practice when it comes to performing well on standardized tests – 3rd through 8th grade.
* Planning for a Director Retreat the week of June 12th.
* Sunset Memos have been revised and pushed out to staff to help successfully guide the close out of our school year.
* New Teacher BTSP program wrapped for the year – supported 5 new teachers this year, with one graduating from the three year DPI program.

**Staff News**

* Staff from both Children’s House, MS, Specialists, and the EC department are beginning to suggest and explore PD opportunities. Some of these requests have been approved for this summer, others will be considered and included in the 2024-2025 budget. It is a good sign that staff are beginning to care about and feel heard when it comes to their own PD plans – investigating what is out there and asking to participate. Requests include an AMS inclusion certificate with Joyce Pickering’s program out of Houston and Project Based Learning for the Adolescent.
* Small groups of cross grade level teams have paired up and submitted presentation proposals for both the national AMS conference in Orlando and for the Montessori Association of North Carolina conference in Charlotte next fall. We are proud of these submissions and hope they are considered and accepted.

**Administrative News**

* Directors are preparing for their annual planning retreat the week of June 12th.
* Directors are excited to continue their work with Peaceful Schools – particularly the fishbowl practice of modeling frank, honest, and caring evaluative conversations with staff. These coaching conversations can sometimes be difficult and stressful depending on the context. Directors have appreciated this time to discuss our most vulnerable and difficult work in community with each other.
* The Annual Report is being drafted and worked on ahead of the LHU Board’s Annual Meeting in June.
* The Operations Team is continuing to call down our waitlist for our open 1st through 8th grade spots. Progress is being made.
* The Operation Team is also working to successfully close out the 2022-2023 school year, both from a fiscal perspective (prepping for our June audit) and a data perspective (closing out Powerschool and reopening in July with next year’s data).
* The Operation Team is also working on our EVAAS Roster reporting for DPI. It is a busy season for Operations.

**Facility and Grounds Management**

* Our keyless entry system is live. Admin have their keyless entry apps on their phones and the cards have been distributed. Staff will get these tools in August.
* We are prepping for a full inventory of our technology over the summer, in partnership with NetSmart (i.e. Staff Devices, Walkie Talkies, Student Devices – all computers, phones, IPads, etc)
* We continue to prepare for large and small facility projects over the summer (closet remodels, painting projects, solar panel installation, parking lot painting, landscape improvements, etc).

**Guests and Points of Discussion for the Board Agenda**

* Staff and Parent Survey: A Review and Discussion (Huge thanks to Leslie, Ryan, and Katie!)
* NC State Outdoor Learning Environment Proposal: Robin, Mary, and Brendon
* Board Consultants/Strategic Planning Proposal: Sam Chaltain and Bobbi MacDonald