## May 12, 2023 Meeting:

### Attendance and Call To Order

Virtual via Google Meets

Chair: Kevin Hughes

Board Members: Kim Elliott

Others: Maureen Capillo, Justin Tosco

Meeting was called to order at \_\_12:00pm\_\_.

### Agenda

* Conflict of Interest Policy Updates
* Gender/Name/Pronoun Policy

### Discussion Items:

Conflict of Interest Policy

### Maureen attempted to submit several documents to the State DPI OCS’ new Epicenter document platform as part of our annual submissions. Epicenter is the Office of Charter Schools' new document management platform. One of the required documents is our LHU Board Conflict of Interest Policy. Our reviewer (Joseph Letterio) flagged the LHU policy as deficient. Per OCS, our policy must include this specific language from the state statute and our charter:

A person shall not be disqualified from serving as a member of a charter school’s board of directors because of the existence of a conflict of interest, so long as the person’s actions comply with the school’s conflict of interest policy as provided in G.S. 115C-218.15(b)(3) and applicable law. Reference § 115C-218.15.

No voting member of the governing board shall be an employee of a for-profit company that provides substantial services to the charter school for a fee.

* This language is also consistent with our Bylaws.
* The Committee agreed to modify the LHU Conflict of Interest Policy to reflect the requested changes.
* The Policy Committee recommends the Board adopt the revised policy.

### Gender/Name/Pronoun Policy

* Following up on discussion from the Board retreat, the committee discussed whether Sterling should adopt a formal policy about honoring the student’s request to use a different name/pronoun at school.
* The Committee reviewed the Durham Public School’s policy, which presumes that parents are informed of their child’s requests, but which allows the school to deviate if the school believes it is in the student’s best interests.
* DPS schools and administration have access to greater resources than Sterling (e.g., licensed mental health counselors) as they weigh these decisions.
* NC legislature is currently discussing issue and has proposed a bill that would require parental notification prior to use of a new name/pronoun. That bill has passed the Senate but remains in committee in the House.
* The committee discussed tabling this for a few months to see whether NC bill becomes law. However, if this law does not take effect, we believe it would be advisable for the school to formally adopt a policy for the next school year.
* Expect discussion in upcoming Policy committee and Board meetings.

Closure and Next Steps:

* Committee to discuss possible Gender policy in upcoming meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_12:45p\_\_.  
  
Next Meeting June 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Recommended Board Actions:

* The Policy Committee recommends LHU Board adopt the revised LHU Conflict of Interest Policy