

August 1, 2017

To the Families and Staff of Lake Lure Classical Academy,

Greetings to you from your Lake Lure Classical Academy – a Challenge Foundation Academy Board of Directors. We hope everyone has enjoyed the well-deserved summer break. Can you believe it is almost time for school to start again?!

Before we get started with the new Academic year we want to say “THANK YOU!” Thank you to Mr. Tom Keever, who stepped into his position as our Executive Director with confidence and purpose. Under his leadership we have a strong Administrative team. Leading by example, Mr. Keever has given tours of the school to prospective families and reminds us all that we have a shared goal: giving kids a great education. Thank you, to our Teachers and Staff for your daily commitment to our Students, and for your work as a team to strengthen and build LLCA-CFA. We are a School of choice and you are our ambassadors, on the front line every day, making LLCA-CFA a great School. We also want to thank Parents and Guardians of our Students, for choosing LLCA-CFA for your child’s education.

If you have questions about the Board of Directors please reach out to any Members. The minutes from our regular monthly Board meetings can be found on the School website > About > Board of Directors page. You can also find an Application, if you are interested in joining a particular Committee or the Board, on our website > About > Get Involved page. <http://llca.teamcfa.school/> The LLCA-CFA School Community functions best when we work together toward fulfilling our Mission.

There have been a few changes in our Board membership. In May we welcomed Mrs. April Young and Dr. Cary Hatton onto the Board. We have a new Team CFA representative, Mr. Warren Alston. We are grateful to all our past Board Members who have served the School.

The Board of Directors meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm and the meetings are open to the Public. We welcome you to join any time.

In closing, congratulations to our Students! You worked tirelessly throughout the year and we could not be prouder of each and every one of you. Great job! Be sure to take a look at the school website, or Facebook page, to see some of the photos from our S.O.A.R. summer camps and kindergarten camp. There are a lot of smiling faces!

We look forward to a wonderful 2017/18 School Year!

Sincerely,

Lake Lure Classical Academy Board of Directors

“What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Here are some Highlights from Board Committees over the past year:

Personnel:

- Over the summers of 2016 & 2017 we approved the addition of several new teachers as well as oversight of staff changes.
- Hosted a Teacher & Staff lunch to kick-off the 2016-17 school year.
- Reviewed and Approved the Beginning Teacher Plan proposed by Mr. Keever, as required by NCDPI.
- Met with School Leadership regarding staffing plans for school year 2017-18.

Board Nominating and Development:

- Conducted a Board retreat with the School Leadership Team in October 2016.
- Reviewed and recommended several new Board and Committee Members over the past year.

Ad Hoc Vision and Planning team:

- Created a LLCA-CFA Board Strategic Plan.

Facilities:

- Thanks to all the volunteers (parents, staff, and community members) who helped with our special “workday” in the spring and those who work tirelessly to keep our School and campus safe, operational and beautiful.
- Secured the permanent Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for the School.
- Removal of the temporary school buildings on Memorial Highway site and prepared the property site for sale.
- Worked on our multi-use field; we look forward to it being ready for soccer, baseball, and softball for the 2017-18 School year!

Curriculum:

- Supported the dual enrollment partnership of our High School program with Isothermal Community College as an option for students.
- Enthusiastically supported LLCA-CFA Administration’s proposed changes in the High School graduation requirements, curriculum and scheduling.
- Recommended incorporating coding and programming exercises in elementary levels and researched various alternative programs (such as, “Leader In Me”.)
- Upcoming topics in which the committee will participate include a 2-year school accreditation process and the successful integration of the Eureka Math program (similar to Singapore Math) into grades K-8.

Marketing:

- Initiated a comprehensive Media and Communications Campaign – highlighting LLCA good news from “very successful summer camps,” that we are a “Publicly funded tuition free charter school” new teachers that “invigorated our Math department,” and a persistent focus on “enhanced social media communications.” Community support for LLCA and its various programs has substantially grown during the latter half of the 2016/17 school year, thanks to the dynamic efforts of the Marketing Committee. Examples include selected donations for math camps, science materials, scholarships, bus fund raising, and teacher professional development.
- Word of Mouth and social media campaigns have paid off as evidenced by a strong enrollment forecast for the 2017/18 school year.

Finance:

- The LLCA Finance Committee conducted a detailed analysis of the School’s student loss pattern in SY 2015-2016 and concluded that the Board needed to undertake the following in collaboration with the Executive Director:
- Invest in Administrative resources to track student progress, initiate Grant Writing, tutor students to bring them up to grade level in Math and Reading, and pay teachers at par of the recommended State of NC Teacher pay scale.

- Frame a Partnership with Isothermal Community College to offer dual accreditation (High School-College courses), as well as Technical Tracks for part of the LLCA student population that were not interested in College.
- Initiate an outreach to USDA for financing to construct an LLCA-CFA Gymnatorium and restructure the current high interest \$9 million Bond financing.