

Liberty Tech Charter School
119 Price Road, Brooks, GA 30205
www.libertytechcharter.com
770-461-0005

"We are Mavericks, facing the future with the goal of changing the world."

Draft: 07/09/20

Approved:

Special Called Meeting Minutes

2020-21 Reopening

Date and Time

Thursday, July 09 at 7:00 PM

Location

Conference call line: **Call-in information: Dial-in number (US):** (425) 436-6309 **Access code:** 289390# or teleconference at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/andreaferguson1> In accordance with Georgia's open meetings requirement, a notice of this meeting has been posted on the school website, as well as social media channels. The reason for this meeting being a teleconference was due to the COVID19 social distancing requirements.

Directors Present

Todd Levin (remote), Esther Goss(remote), Kenneth Hamner(remote), Tony Tringale(remote), Jametria Floyd (remote), Andrea Ferguson (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

None

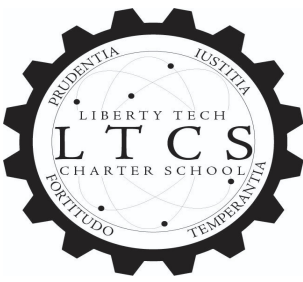
Non-Voting Members Present

Celesta McGee (PTO/School Operations Manager)

Others Present

All guests were present remotely.

Parents: Charlene Siemen, Nalley, Akila Cooper Tuck, Charlene, Sherita Lewis, Jody Cogel, Mike Boylan, Trinetta Langford, Michelle Hamner, Cassandra Scott, Rachel Koontz, Frederic Taylor, Rudbart Lewis, Rhonda Haynes, Chris Jones, Lindy Stevens, Kristi Hardeman, Amanda Burnham, Eileen Powell, Julia Travis, Lashan Anderson, Hattie Burrell, Shayla Raymond, Deborah Chaney, Wendy Chaney, Matthew Hughes, Deahl Carroll Wilson, Vimal Patel, Henry Busby, Kathryn Cargile,



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Natalie Jones, Vanessa, Eric Walker, Christina M., Yolonda Washington, Cleon Rajcoomar, Rashad Davis, Vasin Douglas, Adam Wilson, Ahlyvia Black, Tamika Hughley, LaShantice Anderson

Teachers & Staff: *Leslie Robinson, Heather Peacock, Susan Crowe, Kristi VanGunst, Neva Velasquez, Diana Caldwell, others were identified by phone number only on the online recording.*

I. Opening Items

- A. Welcome/Record Attendance
- B. Call the Meeting to Order

Todd Levin called the special called meeting of the Board of directors of Liberty Tech Charter School to order on Monday, July 09, 2020 at 7:05 PM

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6309 **Access code:** 289390#. via conference call noted above. Andrea Ferguson seconded the motion. Vote: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Roll Call

T. Levin	Aye
A. Ferguson	Aye
E. Goss	Aye
T. Tringale	Aye
J. Floyd	Aye
K. Hamner	Aye

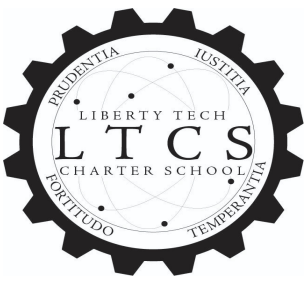
C. Approve Agenda

Todd Levin motioned to approve the agenda. Esther Goss seconded the motion. Vote: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Roll Call

T. Levin	Aye
A. Ferguson	Aye
E. Goss	Aye
T. Tringale	Aye
J. Floyd	Aye
K. Hamner	Aye

Todd Levin reviewed the purpose of the meeting for all participants: *The purpose of tonight's meeting is to allow the board to discuss the proposed reopening plan that Mrs King has provided to us and provide feedback as any time we meet as a board it has to be public. We won't be able to answer specific questions during this meeting as this is not the final plan, which should be released*



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tomorrow. Mrs King will have a follow up Q&A session or documentation released, so I will forward your questions on to her to ensure they are included.

D. Reopening Plan Public Comment

At 7:08PM, Todd Levin opened the opportunity for public comments regarding the reopening plan via chat window or emailed comments. Comments are listed as received at the end of the meeting minute's document. At 7:21PM Todd Levin closed Public Comments. Any comments or questions received via the chat window were announced to be included in the public comment section.

Andrea Ferguson reminded the audience that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to allow the board to discuss the reopening plan proposed by Mrs. King (Principal) and the Reopening Committee. Anytime the Board meets as a quorum, we must hold a public meeting. The Board will not be able to answer specific questions during this meeting as this is not the final plan, which should be released sometime following this meeting. Mrs. King will have a follow up Q&A session or FAQ documentation released. Any questions would be forwarded on to her to ensure they are included and responded to.

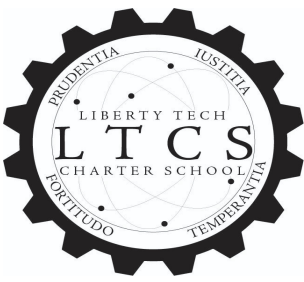
II. Reopening Plan Discussion

Todd Levin opened the discussion with a statement from the Board regarding masks:

As the new school year approaches, the coronavirus pandemic has continued to disrupt our lives and shows no signs of ending prior to our August 3rd start date. The Liberty Tech board has worked closely with Principal King and the opening committee to determine the best way for us to provide students a quality education while remaining safe and healthy. To accomplish this, the board has debated the merits of the school requiring the student body to use face coverings to help reduce the spread of an outbreak originating from the school.

A majority of the board supports the mandatory use of face masks for students but would allow requested exemptions. These board members support this based on the CDC encouraging their use and the climbing confirmed cases in the counties where our students reside. A minority of board members oppose the mandate because they want to allow families to choose if or how their child(ren) use face coverings based on their individual needs.

While we will not require the use of face masks at this time, we strongly encourage that the opening committee recommend their use, and we recommend all families to consider how their decisions to either use or not use face masks will impact others within Liberty Tech. Our own history shows us that Liberty Tech is not immune to viruses. For example, 21% of our student body had flu symptoms in December 2018, and we closed the school down for two days as a result. While the school was able to implement practices to help prevent closure due to flu in 2019, COVID-19 is a significantly more serious virus, and has so far claimed the lives of 135,000 Americans. By working together and exercising our virtue of Prudence, we can keep our school safe and healthy as best as possible during this challenging time.



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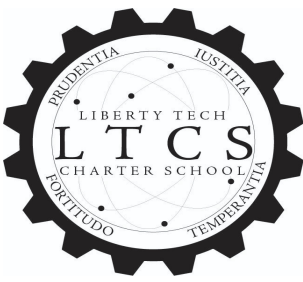
"While the board will support whichever decision to school makes, we strongly encourage that the opening committee recommend their use, and we recommend all families to consider how their decisions to either use or not use face masks will impact others within Liberty Tech."

Todd Levin opened discussion to the Board regarding option 1 in the reopening plan proposed by the school:

- Virtual vs Brick and Mortar Options:
 - Supportive of multiple options being available in the plan. However, more details need to be provided for each line item. Provide
 - Options recommends also presenting a back-up plan (tollgates) to show how the options change based on public health.
 - How do we measure if we return to the ideal state (brick & mortar)?
 - How do we measure when we switch to virtual?
 - add more details on the quality of education both options will yield.
- Health students with pre-existing conditions (high risk health conditions) have an opportunity to make other changes.
- Classroom spacing: add more explanation on how students will be spaced in the classrooms? How does this spacing work for specials? Add general guidelines for how the classes will be spaced. Then a more detailed guideline per grade level.
- Parent visits: in addition to visitors will parental visits also be limited?
- Facilities: more info on how the facilities will be sanitized (e.g. how often), procedure for cleaning the classrooms, after specials
- Temperature checks: explain the process on how temperature checks will work (e.g. will this be done prior to entry school, etc?)

Todd Levin opened discussion to the Board regarding option 2 in the reopening plan proposed by the school.

- Virtual learning time: explain that the hours by grade for virtual learning are recommended by the state.
- Explain if there will be an option for virtual learning post end of trimester one for parents that may not feel comfortable or those that are considered medically fragile. Identify a process that can be followed if this scenario unfolds.
 - Look into an option of offering virtual learning for the entire school year
- Explain security level on the webcams.
 - Options recommends also presenting a back-up plan (tollgates) to show how the options change based on public health.
- Recommend parent training classes to teach parents how to use Google classroom or other virtual options to prepare parents and students if we need to convert to a virtual environment again.



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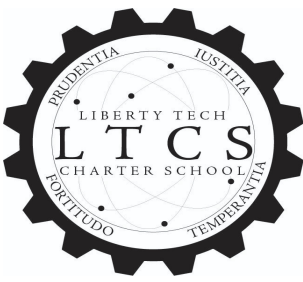
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- Show a side by side comparison of the two options so parents can analyze to determine best option for their family.
 - Include an example of the virtual schedule.
 - Explain difference between Fall virtual learning vs Spring virtual learning
- What times do people need to check in to virtual learning? Restrictions on Chromebook usage when class not in session.
- Show the benefits from both options (Virtual and Brick & Mortar). Explain more detail around the options soon is needed. Need to be thoroughly answered so that the decisions can be made for the families.
- Send the FAQs that we are aware of now out along with the initial letter noting that as questions arise the document will be updated.
- Add equivalent details for both options (e.g. attendance for virtual vs brick and mortar). Right now, the line items provided for both don't include the same details (one includes attendance, one does not)
- Add a detail on how and when will technology assistance will be provided.
- Add how performance will be measured for both options to ensure students receiving same level of education and growth.
- Add detail on how specials will occur for virtual.
- Additional information on IEPs, 504 plans, gifted services.
- Add an overview and a detail version of the plan. There are examples provided in the COVID19 resources.

Todd Levin opened discussion to the Board regarding communication and survey plan proposed by the school.

- Consider additional open discussions or town halls after the letter has been distributed to allow parents to get clarification on their questions.
- Show a side by side comparison of the two options so parents can analyze to determine best option for their family. A table format with columns or checkboxes to easily compare.
 - Include an example of the virtual schedule.
- Consider moving the decision for parents to 7/20 if the FAQ document will not be sent until 7/17.
- Send the FAQs that we are aware of now out along with the initial letter noting that as questions arise the document will be updated.
- Masks: set the expectation that masks are required, so that the exception would be not wearing a mask.
- Communication: share the details as widely and frequently as possible.
 - Build out a separate page on the website. Some schools are using the pop-up window feature so when someone logs onto the website
- Indicate the rules for switching between the two options. Example a parent is working from home now, but conditions change and they need to send the student to school. Is this



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information in the survey? The goal would be to avoid a tremendous strain on school. Add an option for approved exceptions.

- Help the Board identify the policies that will need to be updated prior to the 7/27 Board meeting.

III. Action Items

- The Secretary, Andrea Ferguson to summarize tonight's public comments and send out for review by 7/10.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Todd Levin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Esther Goss seconded the motion. The board VOTED unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Levin	Aye
A. Ferguson	Aye
E. Goss	Aye
T. Tringale	Aye
J. Floyd	Aye
K. Hamner	Aye

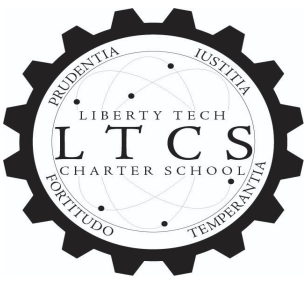
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

B. Online meeting link

Due to the meeting being conducted online each meeting has been recorded. The recording for this meeting can be found at <https://fccdl.in/18ZichOcyL>

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Ferguson
Secretary



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Appendix

Reopening Plan Public Comments received 7/8 (via Board@libertytechcharter.org)

Jul 8, 2020, 6:13 PM [Trinetta Langford]

1. Are all individuals being screened and monitored for signs and symptoms of Covid-19 before entering the building?
2. If parents want their child/ren to wear mask will they be allowed even if it's not mandatory?
3. How will lunch be facilitated/offered?
4. How will social distancing be maintained during recess and physical education?
5. Will there be more than one option for returning to school this year?
6. If an Hybrid model is offered (A or B) days will siblings be allowed to attend classes on the same days?
7. If virtual learning is offered, will students that are enrolled virtually have an opportunity to meet with their virtual teachers if they need assistance with assignments?

Jul 8, 2020, 10:29 PM [Kathryn Cargile]

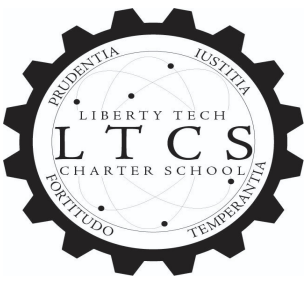
1. How many hours a day on the computer is virtual expected to be? How many hours total is a student expected to spend on class work (my children are 1st and 2nd)?
2. If a family chooses to be virtual, is it for the entire year or a specific period of time?
3. Will there be required virtual zooms/live teaching at specific times of day?
4. If a student is virtual, is there an option to have any special services (speech language pathology or other rehab services) completed in person?

Jul 8, 2020, 10:00 PM [Eric Ochsner]

All,

I wanted to share a public comment for tomorrow's meeting:

Thanks to all the school staff that has worked so hard to prepare a safe environment for our kids to return to school. I am encouraged that we are trying to put together a plan that gives families options because in these unprecedented times it is important that families consider their own unique situations and not have the school try and force a one-size-fits-all solution to a problem like this. There are lots of families that are looking to preserve the hands on, STEAM focused environment that has always defined Liberty Tech and there are others that are trying to find a safer online environment because of their particular situations. There are some families that are concerned about how their kids that would be negatively impacted by their kids having to wear a mask because



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of allergies or breathing difficulties and there are other families that will want to have their kids wearing a mask all day long to give added protection. These situations are all different and these perspectives are valid so trying to cram everyone into a single way of doing things will never provide the type of solution that can solve a problem like the one we are all faced with. As a charter school we give up a lot of resources, funds, and administrative structure but we give it all up based on the belief that it is more important to have flexibility than to have all that other support. This same belief should hold true in this situation. Allowing flexibility is going to be a powerful tool to solve this, or any other problem that the school is faced with. I appreciate all that you all do.

Thanks,
Eric Ochsner

Questions- Jametria Floyd (7/8/20)

- What procedure or protocols will be in place for restrooms for students? Many parents will want to know about cleanliness and procedures that will be in place for young elementary age students?
- Will students have some form of Physical Education in the classroom?
- If all students have to convert to remote learning, will some form of training/workshop will be offered to parents about the student platforms and softwares ?

Question - Esther (received 7/8/20)

- Will we need to change lunch offerings and/or rules on what food items can be included in brought-from-home lunches since students will be eating in the classroom now?

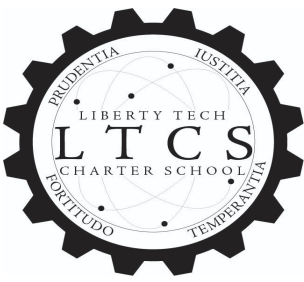
Reopening Plan Public Comments received 7/9 (via Board@libertytechcharter.org)

Jul 9, 2020, 7:58 AM [Akila Cooper Tuck]

First I would like to thank you for allowing us parents to provide input in this tough decision. I am completely torn about sending my boys back to school. They love school but are afraid to come back right now. My main concern is that people already send their kids to school sick and I'm not sure anything would change. My husband is a pastor and we are finding out that some of our members and renters had the virus or were exposed but were afraid to let him know. I am also concerned about the school being cleaned and sanitized properly. Virtual learning was tough but the main concern should be keeping everyone safe.

Thank you,
Akila Tuck
Sent from my iPhone

Jul 9, 2020, 11:51 AM [Shayla Raymond]



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I just now saw about the meeting so hopefully, this question gets in even though I missed the morning deadline.

1. **If because of the COVID situation we choose to do something different like homeschool just for this year or something, would that forfeit our spot for the next school year at LTCS?**
2. These questions may already be asked but:
 - a. Will we have options like other schools are doing where we can choose virtual or brick and mortar?
 - b. If so, **how many hours a day will virtual students be expected to be in front of a computer?**
3. For in-person school:
 - a. Will masks be optional?
 - b. Will PE and Recess be like normal?
4. Will we be doing the Green Yellow Red thing like Fayette county is doing and if so how will we determine what color we are when our students come from so many different counties?

Reopening Plan Public Comments received 7/9 (via Board@libertytechcharter.org during the special called meeting)

Jul 9, 2020, 6:39 PM [Deahl Wilson] allowed online submission due to technical difficulties with online software.

I would like to know what the special ed department will look like with the new opening with so many different special needs and Sensory issues.

Will we be able to switch between starting school in the class and then change to online later?

Sent from my iPhone

Jul 9, 2020, 7:03 PM [Charlene Siemen]; allowed online submission due to technical difficulties with online software.

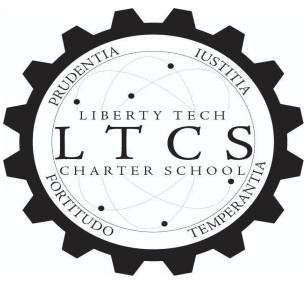
Hello I have a few concerns on if school goes back to normal where the children are in school learning.

1. My daughter has asthma, wearing a mask makes it hard for her to breath (her doctor has stated this) can she wear a face shield instead of a mask if masks are mandatory?
2. Is there a possibility that parents can have the option of keeping their kids on at home virtual learning even if other parents decide to send their kids to school?
3. If the kids do virtual learning will there be more one on one teaching/learning with the teacher?

Reopening Plan Public Comments received 7/9 (via Chat during the meeting). *Guest responses were consolidated into similar subject areas due to some members only being identified by a phone # or first name, which made it difficult to capture the true identity in order for individual follow-up to occur. Responses to the below will be sent by the school Principal Mrs. King for follow-up in the reopening plan FAQ document.*

Safety

1. Who will be taking the temperatures of the students?



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2. Can the teachers help with taking the temperatures to save the Nurse lady some time?
3. Can the temperature checks be done at the carpool line in the AM to prevent sick kids from coming into the school?
4. What happens when someone tests positive?
5. Will the teachers move classes more than the students?
6. What will the number of students per classroom be for K-2?
7. What will the scheduling be for bathrooms breaks?
8. How will the students be separated in classrooms for lunches?
9. If I want my child to wear a mask, but cannot buy them all the time will the school help provide a mask?
10. Will students that wear masks be separated from students that don't wear masks when they are in the classroom?

Health

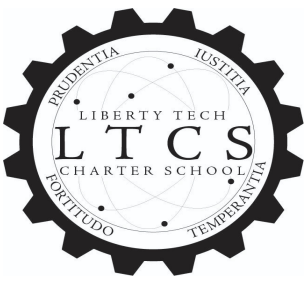
1. What will be done for high risk children with asthma, etc?
2. What if one of my children becomes ill or gets COVID, will I be able to keep them all home and switch the ones that are not sick to virtual to avoid a risk of them bringing the germs back to school?
3. What if the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, could the school change to 100% virtual learning?
4. What happens if a student is attending school in-person and must stay home for several weeks because of exposure to COVID-19?
5. How will the school maintain social distancing in the hallways, specials like P.E., recess?
6. Will students and staff be required to wear masks at school?
7. What safety measures will be used besides temperatures checks? A child can come in to school with no fever or having taken Tylenol and by the second temperature check they have a fever, now other children are affected.
8. How are you examining the COVID-19 spread? What do you consider our status to be now like red, yellow, or green. Will the status be posted or communicated to parents daily?

Lunch

1. How will the students with allergies be separated at lunch time?
2. What is the plan for lunch this year? How will I pay for lunch?
3. Will there be sufficient time to prepare prior to 8/3? Or will there be time for this plan to be analyzed thoroughly?
4. For a child with severe food allergies, will the EpiPen or other rescuer medicine be allowed in the classroom if they are eating in class?

General Questions

1. Can we receive the FAQs before we make the decision for B&M or virtual?
2. To offer virtual learning for one semester doesn't make sense that doesn't give parents a choice in the winter when flu season and COVID will be really had this year. Why only one semester?



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Afterschool

1. What about afterschool? Aftercare? How will that be handled?
2. If we use Master Shims or an afterschool program,, how will the drop-off pickup be handled?

Virtual vs Brick and Mortar Options

1. What if we chose virtual and then later want to switch to Brick and Mortar, will that be allowed?
This could be due to job changes.
2. Can we see the sample schedule for both the virtual and brick and mortar options?
3. Will there still be MAP testing or other testing? How will that work if we choose the virtual option?
4. What happens when you need to change an option mid-trimester?
5. Can I choose a different option for my children? One virtual , one brick and mortar?
6. How will the virtual learning options work? Will there be live video from teacher, pre-recorded video from teacher, or just Google Classroom?
7. Will grading and expectations be the same for both digital and in-person instruction?
8. I am interested in the virtual learning but have spotty internet service. How will you adjust to technical or access to wireless issues?
9. Why is a hybrid model not being considered, like A and B schedules?

Afterschool Activities

1. Will the school be able to offer extracurricular activities and sports? If so, will students who choose virtual learning be able to participate?

Technology Training for parents

1. Can there be some type of parent training on the virtual tools?
2. Will the virtual and B&M students be able to take home Chromebooks?

Middle School

1. Will students that select virtual have specials classes?
2. How will students that receive special services like speech be helped if they choose virtual?
3. How will middle school handle gifted and high school credit classes?
4. For middle school if we select virtual will that impact the classes that my son gets to take, like Math, English?

Volunteering

1. How will I be able to help volunteer from home? I assume there are no volunteers at the school anymore.