

Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, September 10th, 2019
5:30pm
Cafeteria

Present: George Scheer, Fred Adams, Jay Hawkins, Greg Bush, Yacine Kout, Joanna Lower, Leila Villaverde, Heather Moore, Melissa Bocci, Jeannette Alarcon

Leila Villaverde called the meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda and the July meeting minutes.

Jeannette Alarcon moved to approve the agenda and all minutes from July, Jay Hawkins seconded, all were in favor, and motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Report from School Directors

Melissa Bocci noted that the state budget had not passed. The state funds of \$320,000 to drawdown covers September and October. She has implemented a “self-imposed” spending freeze, focusing on essentials until the budget passes.

Melissa Bocci noted that she had some questions for the accountant service about the current budget sheet (provided). She had the following questions and responses from the accountant service.

- It seems like the things in red were miscategorized
- Crayola grant should not be revenue (it was spent last year) but, it is coded the way it is because of how it was coded last year
- Life insurance – there was no budget in that column but, we had that last year
- Psychological – same thing
- Fidelity where was red was a one-time bond
- Miscellaneous moving to building
- Now alarm is set to call angel before dispatch
- Also talked about needing to make adjustments for custodial services versus custodian salary. Just salary and then move rest to custodial services.
- Before/After care stipend is covered by fees. Acadia did not code correctly so, they are fixing it. This was not a line item last year but Acadia is going to do it differently. The system splits the health insurance because of the system.

Financial Reports--The state has not yet passed the budget. We should have received yesterday another funding drop that paid out the remaining 34% based on the initial planning ADM (322). Acadia had not

received this as of noon yesterday. The funding was based on last year's per pupil amount. Previously, we had received funds based on last year's ADM and PP dollars. This year's ADM will lock after 9/19/2019 (day 20). Currently we have \$320,184.95 in state funds available for drawdown.

- current balance sheet--provided
- cash flow statement--provided
- income and expense statement--provided
- update on the budget versus actual expenditures--provided

Enrollment--We currently have 321 students. Our current ADM after 12 days is 322.82 (ADM is not official until day 20)

- K: 33, 1st: 42, 2nd: 42, 3rd: 40, 4th: 41, 5th: 42, 6th: 39, 7th: 42
- Current demographics based on self-reporting as entered in PowerSchool: 158 male, 165 female; 15% Latino, 27% Black or AA, 2% Asian, 0% American Indian, 52% White, 7% report more than one code; 22% FRL, 78% not FRL (however, there are families who have been notified they submitted incomplete applications, so the final number could be closer to 25%).
- The lottery will be archived at 5:00 pm on 9/19/2019. Waitlists for each grade are as follows: K=98, 1st=71, 2nd=30, 3rd=41, 4th=46 5th=35, 6th=54, 7th=0
- Exceptional Children statistics: We currently are serving 48 students with IEPs, 15% of our student population.
 - The percentage of students with IEPs in each house: K: 1%, 1st/2nd: 8%, 3rd/4th: 16%, 5th/6th: 16%, 7th: 7%
 - 69% White, 25% Black or AA, 4% Asian, 2% Latino, 1% more than one code
 - 56% of students with IEPs also qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch
 - 9 of the students only receive speech services
 - 1 student is in the EC referral process
 - 16 students have 504s

Program Reports

- Program Goal 1: At least two "major" projects will be developed, implemented, and assessed each year. "Major" projects are defined as those that span a period of more than 2 weeks, involve a minimum of 2 grade levels, integrate a minimum of 3 curricular areas, and feature some aspect of community engagement.
 - Teachers are working on building community and beginning of the year assessments. All grade levels are teaching the many different aspects of identity through various projects and using a wide range of texts.
 - Events-

<https://globalclimatestrike.net/>

September 20 5/6th grade.

<https://www.glsen.org/allyweek>

September 23-27/Peaceful Schools working with 5-7th grade students

Author Visits

<http://leaewilliams.com/>

September 30 – Wrote about Ella Baker (5/6 grade students)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/610879/peace-love-action-by-tanya-zabinski/9781946764478/>

October 22 – 5-7th grade.

- Program Goal 2: All students will be engaged in off site learning opportunities a minimum of eight times per year.
 - August 6- 5th/6th grade students walked to various Folk Festival stages and listened to sound checks
 - September 13- 7th grade movement students will go see a residence artist through Dance Project
 - October 2-1st/2nd grade students will go to Razz Tazz Farm to learn more about farming
- Program Goal 3: All teachers will be trained in experiential education, project-based learning methods, portfolio assessments, and the adopted social curriculum.
 - Upcoming Professional Development
 - September 26th- Science PD with Sara Heredia
 - October 2nd and 16th- Restorative Justice PD with Peaceful Schools
 - November 6th- Arts Integration PD at UNCG's Weatherspoon Art Museum

Nov 14 – peaceful schools coming to family night.

Sara Heredia and Leila met with the Forge today. He's wanting teacher input on how the space should look. PD day 5-7 go there to figure out ways to partner. Figure out days are available. They also have staff meetings on the same day, so one of those may be an option.

Library also has a new maker space to explore too.

Academic Reports

- School Report Cards were released publically last week. Due to our math scores, TESS scored a D. We will discuss the math scores in more depth momentarily.
- Academic Goal 1: 80% of students will demonstrate growth annually in reading as evidenced by results from a nationally normed assessment administered three times per year.
 - We are beginning our Istation BOY assessments. Data will be reported in October.
 - 3rd grade students took the BOG3 today. Data will be reported in October.
- Academic Goal 2: 75% of students will demonstrate proficiency as evidenced by results from End of Grade tests for each tested subject area.

- Math EOG results are as follows: 32% of 3rd graders, 35% of 4th graders, 36% of 5th graders, and 43% of 6th graders scored 3 or above, “proficient”. 18% of 3rd graders, 21% of 4th graders, 21% of 5th graders, and 33% of 6th graders scored 4 or above, “college and career ready”. The state no longer reports scores of 1 or 2, lumping those together as “not proficient”. We did not meet our performance goal in math. In reflecting on these scores, we have noticed the following:
 - Our students are solid mathematicians (they know how to do the math and can use lots of strategies to solve problems), but they aren't *fast* mathematicians. The test is timed, and this test had more questions and less time than previous tests. Lots of tests were not completed or students started rushing to finish.
 - Action: We are working to find new ways to strike a balance between building our students' math understanding and developing their equation-solving speed.
 - The test highlighted standards in different proportions than previous tests, meaning that we emphasized certain content over other content, but then the other content was what seemed to be emphasized on the new version of the test.
 - Action: We need to re-pace to make sure that we are giving due diligence to all topics and not rushing any of them. The state does give us school-level data on how students as a whole performed on certain standards categories. We can use this knowledge as we pace this year.
 - We need to find new ways to teach math as an integrated content area while balancing the students' needs to practice specific math skills in isolation.
 - Action: We are focusing on math this quarter and staff just completed a 3 day PD on math instruction and will begin working with math coaches from UNCG in the coming weeks.
 - Action: All grade levels are extending their math blocks to make sure they have sufficient time to focus on skill building in addition to content-integrated work with math.
 - Action: Teachers are giving students math assessments now to determine how to focus the beginning of the year review period to try to overcome any gaps they may have.
 - Families need more information to support students' math learning at home.
 - Action: All grade levels are providing weekly newsletters with information about upcoming math topics and suggestions for how families can support math learning at home.
 - Action: Oct. 10's Family Night will be math focused to help families learn about what math skills are covered in each grade level and how to help support their students with math at home.
- Academic Goal 3: All students will demonstrate growth based on standards-aligned I-can checklists and portfolio assessments

- Teachers are being trained in using PowerTeacher for standards-based grading. Families can access these scores at will. These will replace the on-going I-Can checklists.
 - Arts teachers are using a new progress reporting tool that marks students at the end of each week on the extent to which they engaged in class. These will go home every 4 weeks.
 - 5th/6th is also using SeeSaw as a digital portfolio program for family communication. Other grade levels are still keeping portfolios hard copy in the classroom.
- Academic Goal 4: TESH students attend school daily. TESH will have an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) of 95% each year with no suspensions
 - For Aug 22-Sept. 9, ADA is 97.75%
 - We have had 2 short term suspension.

Pertaining to the reported math scores, Heather Moore recognized that Math professional development started before school started, that coaching in math starts next week, and that UNCG is providing substitutes so that teachers may be pulled to the side during coaching.

Yacine Kout noted that the scores are part of a story of the school and what people will look at including DPI. The goal is to create pathways to success. Jay Hawkins reminds us that it was our first year. We have to show C or 20% growth. Jay mentioned he was glad to be having this conversation but, at the end of the day, this was the first year. Heather Moore said she and Melissa have had conversations with parents and they seemed pleased with the action plans that have been put in place to support math instruction.

Jay Hawkins suggested we include the qualitative narrative about what is going on in the classroom as well. Leila Villaverde said they are working on a data page on the website. The quantitative and state required data will be included as well as information about other school data.

Heather Moore noted that our next family night is a math night so, families can experience what the learning approach to math. Also each house is sending out a weekly newsletter so families know examples, standards, and resources to support student learning.

Melissa Bocci indicated that there are requirements they will have to follow from DPI and she will learn what those are during a webinar on the 20th. Yacine Kout recommended that when we have the family nights and have the data page up on the website that we include links to research that shows the complexity of the ratings.

Standing Committee Reports

- Executive Committee report - none
- Governance Committee report - none
- Building and Facilities Committee report - none
- Finance Committee report - none
- Excellence in Academic Programs Committee report

Jeannette Alarcon reported on behalf of the Excellence in Academic Programs Committee. She indicated that the committee is currently paused while waiting an appointment of new chair by the board president. Also, the status of the committee with a new chair is as follows: The committee worked during the school year to draft the scope and duties of the committee. They proposed a bylaws change – that is pending because governance committee needs to review all bylaws (sometime during this year). From that work came our last discussion about this committee’s hiring process. There is evidence to support a rethinking of that process. During the meeting, the committee put together a plan that removes this committee from the regular hiring process which is still rigorous and multiphased but, removes the committee from the “regular process”. The recommended new process includes a screening of application materials by the co-directors, then an interview with a school-based committee including the co-directors. The school-based committee would include teachers depending on the house, job, need and others who have a stake in hiring. For example, it could be a board member. Stakeholders will be involved in the hiring process but, it does not require the Excellence in Academic Programs Committee to come together to do a second interview. The school-level committee would put together a packet to present to the board. If there were questions from the board or issues for consideration, then the Excellence in Academic Program Committee would come together to do a second interview. The next step is a timeline for generating templates. We will resume the business when the committee has a new chair.

- Strategic Planning Committee report - none

Joanna Lower asked if we had received more information about the grant that could continue TESH into high school. Leila Villaverde reported that we do qualify to apply for the grant because a high school would be a second school within the TESH network. The grant is due in November. She and another faculty member at UNCG are looking into some high school models that align with TESH that we could learn from and replicate so that we would not have to reinvent the wheel if the grant comes to fruition. If we do not apply for the grant this year, it may also be available next year and it is possible to proceed without the grant. Current focus is on some other priorities, but more information is to come.

Heather Moore asked the facilities committee about any updates for construction of the first floor. Leila Villaverde noted that we agreed to move on that but, we will not proceed until we have a state budget.

New Business

Action Items:

1. Policy revisions 212 – tabled from last board meeting – end of fiscal year close out policy. Greg Bush suggested revisions so that accountants provide report, and businesses manager and board treasurer sign off on it. And, we would need to retroactively do that for last year. Greg Bush noted that this is good business practice to close out the year. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to accept the revision, Jay Hawkins motioned, Jeannette Alarcon seconds, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Leila Villaverde called for a motion to go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes in with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1).

Joanna Lower motioned, Jeannette Alarcon seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. We went into closed session at 6:45 p.m. and returned at 7:25 p.m.

Old Business – none

Announcements

Parents have organized a parking fundraiser during the folk festival.

Leila called for a motion to adjourn. Greg Bush motions, Jeannette Alarcon seconds, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.