

Minutes for Meeting for the Board of Directors
The Experiential School of Greensboro
Tuesday, November 8th, 2022
5:30pm
Virtual/Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 6568 3740, Passcode: 222690)

Attending: Leila Villaverde, Travis Laughlin, Greg Bush, Carl Lashley, Roy Carter, Joanna Lower

Guests: Cortney White, CW, Caroline Kernahan, Bobby, Karen Obas, Sharita Abeny, Kristen Kevorkian, Myia Cox, Alexis Roderick, Damie Jackson-Diop, Rachel Morton

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

Approval of Agenda

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve the agenda. Greg Bush motioned to approve the agenda, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to approve all minutes from October. Greg Bush motioned to approve October minutes, Roy Carter seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Report from Executive Director

Tinisha Shaw shared that this month's focus was on the academic interventions and supports, developing safeguards, and building school leadership. The previous month, each House completed their MAP testing. This data was used to develop student interventions. The curriculum facilitators worked with the teacher assistants to provide interventions for students and collect data for progress monitoring. This is an ongoing process and is part of the PAT/MTSS support for our students. This month we began reconvening our school committees. We are looking to build our School Improvement Team and Hospitality Team (Sunshine Community headed up by Ms. Vaughn). We would like to invite parents to join both committees. An email was sent out about SIT team representatives. We had more shifts in our staff and staff support. We have a new science teacher in the 7/ 8 house. We also have a growing pool of substitute teachers. There have been some teacher absences due to illness or their own children are sick with RSV, flu, or stomach viruses and substitute teachers have been utilized. We had a staff survey this month about the current mask policy. 95% of the responders were open to modifying the current mask policy. Student service team is currently working on securing funding for a few projects that we would like for the school in areas of mental health, student enrichment, and professional development. The Giving Tree Project has been a success. We have several items that we are looking forward to sharing with our school community.

School Updates

- Enrollment = 326
- The school lunch credit program was audited for My Hot Lunchbox. Families that were registered for the lunch program were asked to submit a lunch form and proof of income. Through the process the lunch program went from 84 students to 76 students. Looking into a way that the program can accept donations.
- Technology Request: We have several laptops that are out of commission. Laptops that are needed for 7/8, and 1/2 houses for instructional support and enrichment.
- Families not picking up by 4:00 was noted. Beginning to implement late pick-up payment: November 14, start issuing warnings of payment for late pick-up. Continue policy of \$10 every 15 minutes after 4:00pm. Funds will be collected by the end of each week.
- Revisit: Update the school phones and purchase phones for each house and the DL offices.
- Mask Policy (5-7 packs of masks a day). We still have to pass out more masks in the morning. Masks are found throughout the school grounds. We would like to revise this policy to make masks optional in the school building.
- Within Student Service Report School Health Advisory Council is proposing a \$50,000 budget to support the school's culture, social-emotional learning, crisis response, and overall student, staff, and family health and wellness. There is an additional \$47,000 that has not been used from the 2021-2022 school-year. Thoughts for use: Community partnerships to provide daily recreational activity and after school care (Bryan YMCA, TABS Art Center)

Re-envisioning Community and Family Collaboration

- Defined process for house support based on the needs of the teachers.
- Chaperones and volunteers for field trips and walking field trips can be filled with a basic sign-up sheet.
- In-school volunteers will have to complete a volunteer application to create an approved database of individuals (parents, grandparents, community members) for teachers to choose from. This list can be aligned to specific houses/activities/projects.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be conducted during the month of November. 7th/8th grade teachers will begin scheduling their meetings as soon as possible. The goal is for the team to meet with every 7th and 8th grade parent.
- Development of a "Sunshine Club": hospitality club for school staff. Create connections, celebrate, provide support, and give comfort. Ideas being discussed (e.g. \$15 membership fee for parents/staff, Share with parents in future, shooting for December)
- School Recruitment for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications are now open for the school lottery. Ideas being discussed (e.g. Parent Volunteers to provide tours for families, Organize community events and information nights)

School Improvement Plan/ School Improvement Team

- First reconvening of the School Improvement Team was on October 28th.

- Team meetings will be held on 2nd/4th Wednesdays: Full team meeting per month/school-based team per month.
- New team members: A. Hammer, E. Hill, K. Lowe, N. Goodman
- Completed NCStar Training November 1-2, 2022 in Johnston County
- Next meeting: Monday, November 21st. Complete a needs assessment for the school and submit a preliminary plan for improvement to the school's board of directors.
- By December 9th, submit SIP in NCStar for review and feedback.

Academic Goals Focus for the Month

Academic Goal 1/ Goal 2:

- Held the first BT/Mentor meeting on October 28.
- Schedule training for PowerSchool Pro Gradebook Nov 9, 2022
 - Utilize the data collection and analysis tools of PowerSchool Pro Gradebook
 - Standard based grading
 - Parent Portal letters should have been sent to parents to access their students' grades

Tinisha Shaw opened it up for questions.

Leila Villaverde asked about the timeline for the School Improvement Team needs assessment and noted approval from the Board of Directors be factored into the timeline. Joanna Lower asked about the students not picked up by 4:00 and if there were other needs that were not being met by the families in terms of community referrals. The situation was clarified by Ms. White. Joanna Lower asked about the plans for tours and shared how these were done in concert with information sessions. That is, first information nights were held. If people were still interested after learning about what the school was about, then tours were scheduled. These were strategically scheduled following information nights and a fixed number. She cautioned how tours were done to not disrupt classes and in consideration of other liabilities. Joanna Lower asked about the recommendation to consider changing the mask policy. She noted while most of the staff indicated they were in favor of "mask optional", it's important to listen to the voices that otherwise would not be comfortable with "mask optional". Tinisha Shaw noted that a lot of transmission occurs in the community, and they find masks in the stairwell and playground, etc. Joanna Lower asked about individual teachers requiring mask in their space? Tinisha Shaw indicated that would be fine. Carl Lashley shared that "mask optional" has a lot of different meanings. For example, who makes the call? Can a student make the call? Do parents make that call? Teachers' perspectives may differ from whoever is making the call. The revised policy would need to delineate this very clearly, or it opens conflict.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance Committee report - Greg Bush shared that the finance committee met and discussed the budget (waiting for ADM from the state), enrollment for next year, and using the giving campaign to support teachers and staff.

There were no other standing committee reports to be shared.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Joanna Lower shared that the annual Giving Campaign would be launched soon and aligned with Giving Tuesday so to watch for that communication.

Motion to Adjourn

Leila Villaverde called for a motion to adjourn. Roy Carter motioned to adjourn, Travis Laughlin seconded, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Leila Villaverde adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.