



Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2014

Call to Order:

Kevin Myers called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Present:

Steve McAdams, Bill Borter, Margaret Holder, Charlie Kennedy, Sarah McConnell, Kevin Myers, and Lisa Springle

Absent: Andy Kristianson

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Kevin Myers moved to approve the minutes as distributed from the August 11, 2014 meeting. Lisa Springle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

School Calendar:

Steve McAdams moved to approve the "B" calendar. Bill Borter seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Kevin Myers suggested sending out the calendar for next year with an explanation about the fact that ECS is funded via an average of our daily attendance the first twenty days of school so that parents understand that the school will potentially lose funding if students are absent during those first twenty days.

Director's Update

1. EOG Update

Carolyn Southard and Christi Whiteside presented the End-of-Grade growth scores for the 2013-14 school year. Carolyn Southard explained that growth is calculated with a numerical score. In general, ECS students achieved expected or high growth last year.

Carolyn Southard and Christi Whiteside are working with teachers this year to analyze last year's EVAAS data and implement strategies for continued growth for students, including:

1. Arranging for lateral planning time between grade levels
2. Administering pre-assessments
3. Benchmarking students quarterly to see where students are

(Some brief discussion occurred about how the benchmarking is administered. Christi Whiteside responded that teachers decide how to benchmark their students and that benchmarking assessments won't take longer than a day. Curriculum coordinators and teachers will review the benchmarking information.)

4. Reviewing Bloom's Taxonomy to ensure that teachers are asking questions that go beyond recall and get to higher level thinking.
5. Holding weekly meetings with Curriculum Coordinators and new hires and Initially Licensed Teachers
6. Sharing successful teaching strategies with all the teachers at faculty meetings

2. Testing Coordinator Update

Steve McAdams explained that our current testing coordinator, Beth Gentile, is leaving her position by the end of this calendar year. The position is currently posted on the school website, and one person has expressed interest but wants a full-time position. Steve McAdams proposed that Maija McAdams increase her time in order to take on the duties of testing coordinator. The Board discussed the proposal, including questions about one person managing existing duties and EOG duties, especially during busy EOG testing windows. Kevin Myers suggested expanding the search for a new testing coordinator by posting the position in places outside of the ECS website, and Steve will do that and report back to the Board in October.

3. Literacy Teacher

There was no formal proposal presented at this time, but Christi Whiteside explained that this position will work with beginning readers. The last literacy coordinator was a contract position, but this new position will likely be a 50% staff position. Some discussion occurred about whether this role would require the same skill set as the previous literacy teacher who set up the reading program for grades K-3, and Christi Whiteside said that a reading teacher is needed now who can work with teachers and students. Kevin Myers tasked Steve McAdams with creating a formal proposal for this position in advance of the October meeting.

Forum Drive Update:

Weingarten has a security deposit of \$35K from our previous leased space on Forum Drive. They used \$18K of that deposit for repairs that they made to get the building into working condition for the next tenant. Kevin Myers and Andy Kristianson are working to understand exactly what repairs were made and how much they cost. In the meantime, Weingarten has refunded us the difference between the original \$35K deposit and the \$18K in repairs.

Enrichment Update:

Lara Rice presented an update on the Enrichment program in the first quarter, which included 13 after-school classes serving 121 students. She expects to net about \$7200 for that first quarter.

15 classes will be offered second quarter, including Science Olympiad and Odyssey of the Mind, which are team competitions. PAWS will cover the costs of registering the ECS teams for these events. This year, chorus is split into two groups, elementary and middle-school. Before-school care serves 25 students in two classrooms.

Also new this year, students who are in an after-school class get to play on the playground for 30 minutes during carpool before their class starts. Students have reported really enjoying this extra recess time.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Borter reported that the BB&T Operating account balance is \$708,470.86, and the BB&T Collateral account is \$236,000, for a total balance of \$944,470.86.

Bill Borter also confirmed that our surplus from 2013-14 was \$203,103.87.

Teacher Pay Raises:

Wake County posted their new pay scale today. Bill Borter will do an analysis of the cost of matching that scale now that we have these actual numbers and report back at our October meeting. It is our intention to stay consistent with the Wake County pay scale. Although we are getting about \$100 more per student from the state and a small increase from Wake County, it appears that our per pupil funding will not cover the cost of matching the Wake County pay scale. We will have to find the money to match the Wake County scale by cutting expenses in our budget, and we will discuss this further in October.

Kevin Myers will draft a note to teachers that explains that we are looking into the raise and that there will be a raise, but we don't yet know how much it will be. The Board agreed that any raise we give will be retroactive to the beginning of the year.

Foundation Update re: Site Improvements:

Kevin Myers addressed this topic since David Clodgo was not present at the meeting. Amy Luciani has given the Foundation a number of \$29K to finish all the site improvements required by Wake Forest plus the seeding of the grass. Kevin Myers will work with David Clodgo to find out more about the details of this work.

Christina Cermin said that the soccer field will be seeded and ready to use in the spring. Boosters is also paying to seed the multi-purpose field.

Facility Rental Discussion:

ECS has been approached about renting our building for four weeks during the summer. The Board talked through the issues around what the process might be for renting the building and divided up tasks to answer our fundamental questions about how this melds between the Foundation and the school. We will also find out if it makes

financial sense to pursue this opportunity. Individual Board members will talk to our auditors, BB&T, and others to answer questions about best practices, etc. The Board will continue discussions about this next month.

Finalizing Board Posting and Applicant Packet:

Andy Kristianson sent out finalized wording for the open Board position that the Board agreed was ready to go out.

Discussion re: Statutory Changes:

1. Revision to Admission Policy:

The Board discussed the pros and cons of allowing Board members to bypass the lottery, and where Board members' children might fall in the bypass policy. The Board discussed whether we had reached out to enough potential Board members outside of our community with no lottery bypass for Board members in place.

Kevin Myers tasked the Board to reach out to people we know in the community to see if we can find people who might be interested in serving on the Board. We will continue to discuss this at the October meeting and will likely vote on a new lottery bypass proposal then.

2. Teacher Board Position:

Per changes to charter school law, teachers of a charter school are no longer allowed to be voting members of the Board. This means another seat has opened up on the Board since Sarah McConnell does not want to continue as a non-voting Board member. The Board discussed the various approaches to retaining faculty input into Board discussions, including having a faculty representative to the Board for a school year or rotating through multiple teachers during the course of the year.

Kevin Myers moved to create a one-year non-voting teacher liaison position that coincides with the school year. This person will be included on all Board communications, attend monthly Board meetings and will be an active participant in all Board discussions and meetings. Margaret Holder seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Steve McAdams and Sarah McConnell will work with teachers to fill the teacher liaison position.

Kevin Myers thanked Sarah McConnell for all the thoughtful input and good work she has done for the Board over the course of the past year.

Public Comments:

Jodi Sheldon mentioned concerns with recess at lunch at the various grade levels, including some grades not stopping to wash their hands after playing outside, younger children feeling uncomfortable being paired with older grades, parent lunch volunteers not being able to identify the students they are responsible for since multiple grades are on the playground at the same time, and red ants in the play area.

Kevin Myers asked the administration to look into these concerns and for Steve McAdams to include a response in his Director's Update at the October meeting.

Indy Harris offered for PAWS to work with the administration and Josh Burt to help with some of these concerns about lunch recess.

Peter Henderson asked whether there is any possibility of having after-school Enrichment classes on Fridays. Lara Rice said that she will look into this and send out a survey to families to see if there is enough interest to hold after-school classes on Fridays. She will report back to the Board in October.

Closed Personnel Sessions

Kevin Myers moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue, in accordance with statute 143.318.11 (a) (6). Lisa Springle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board moved into closed session at 9:47 p.m.

Kevin Myers moved that the Board move to open session. Charlie Kennedy seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board reconvened in public session at 9:59.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m.