

Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson, Chairman
Walter Martin, Vice Chairman
Dr. Steven Peters, Treasurer
Mark Fleming, Secretary
Chris Farrell, Board Member
Natalie Wright, Board Member
Katie Gomersall, HOS
Chad Long, Stride
Harry Kaplan, McGuire Woods
Amanda Falkenbury, McGuire Woods
Malia Dodson, Hub International
David Dow, Hub International

Roll call confirmed a quorum

A motion was made by Mark to accept the previous minutes. It was seconded by Chris. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

A motion was made by Mark to approve all the consent items. IT was seconded by Natalie. The vote was unanimous to approve the consent items.

Harry and Amanda gave an update on the legislation that could affect our school: H149 – the Remote Charter Academy bill which would grow NCVA's enrollment and add one year to the pilot was discussed.

H618 Charter Review Board would change the authorization of charter schools from the SBE to the Charter Review Board. They expect the Gov. will veto this bill but that the legislature will override the veto.

The Omnibus Bill is currently on the Gov's desk and they expect that the legislature will override the veto. This bill will change the enrollment regulations as well as allow out of state and out of country enrollees. The fair funding for charter schools funding was removed from the bill.

S20/H190 provides 10million for paid parental leave and gives charter schools the option to participate or not. If they participate, they must allow 8 weeks to teachers for short term disability and the money received by the school is to be used to cover the costs of substitute teachers only.

S49 was vetoed by the Gov and overridden by the legislature. This bill affects schools because of the requirement of parental notice of many things, including pronouns identifying students.

S90 has been making national news, however, they believe that it is not going anywhere.

Harry and Amanda suggested that once the bills have been passed and the budget is finalized that they should do a “lunch and learn” with the Board to let them know what the final bills will require of schools in the coming year.

Brenda acknowledged this would be a good thing to do and thanked them for their presentation.

Head of School Update was given by Katie Gomersall. She stated by telling the Board about some of the amazing students we have in our school identifying 2 students who have been asked to present as finalists in the K12 Innovation Challenge: Carbon Emissions and a 7th grade student who is came in 4th in the Stride National Spelling Bee. The NCVA e-gaming team recently raised \$641.00 for St. Jude.

Katie briefly presented 4 teachers for the Board to approve to hire: Angela Cummings, Leocadia Russell, Rachael Weatly and Tiara Boyd.

She gave an update on the student enrollment. We have 3,075 students enrolled, 2403 of them are returning students. We have 672 new studens: 1299 Elementary School students, 831 Middle School students and 945 High School students. We have 2160 students on the waitlist.

Katie explained that while all EOG test scores are embargoed until September, interval calculations show that we have made good growth.

We have a new school mascot: the black bear. The staff is very excited about this and feel that it is a more relatable mascot throughout all grades.

And finally, while we still maintain ties with Gaylor, the original plans for partnership have been dialed back given the challenges for students to be able to be on site at the Gaylor facility. Stride will be offering the necessary foundation courses needed for exploring a career in electrical services and hoping this will build a strong base upon which more opportunities will become available.

Chad Long introduced Malia and David and Malia presented the BCBS Insurance plan that they believe is the best for our school and our teachers. It is the same plan we had last year and they were able to get this offered to our teachers at the same price as last year. The coverage is the exact same with the exception of

increasing the amount for purchasing glasses frames to \$200 at a minimal increase.

Brenda, Chairman of the Board, gave an update on the recent North Carolina Charter School Association conference. It was very successful with lots of good information. We were able to connect with Marcia Simmons and make some new connections.

Brenda strongly encouraged all Board Members to attend the K12 conference in DC this coming October.

Sara Struhs, Executive Director, gave an update on the CD's. She explained that she had met again with Daniel Wakin of First Citizen's Bank and that he is preparing a plan to present to the board.

Sara told the Board that the Charter Renewal process will begin on August 1 with our intent to seek a renewal being filed with the NC DPI.

Sara also talked about the renewal of the building lease. Negotiations are ongoing, and we expect to have it finalized before too long.

ACTION ITEMS

After some conversation, it was agreed by the Board that Brenda should ask for one vote to confirm paying the June bill, accepting the teachers of hire, and approving the BCBS Insurance plan for the coming school year.

A motion was made by Walter to move on all collectively. Mark seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mark to approve all the items. Walt seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Brenda thanked everyone for attending. A motion was made by Brenda to adjourn. Mark seconded it. The vote was unanimous.