

Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2024

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Walter Martin – Vice Chair  
Steven Peters – Treasurer  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Katie Gomersall – HOS  
Tasha Parnell – HS Principal  
Laura Zuber – Administration  
Chad Long – K12  
Eric Angeny – K12  
Joseph Cugliari- K12  
Scott Sides – K12  
Cande Killian Wood  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Brenda asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and the previous meeting minutes. Steven made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote. It was unanimous.

Natalie read the mission statement.

Brenda asked for any public comments. There were none.

Brenda asked about consent items. Sara explained that the administrative withdrawals were moved to closed session so the Board could discuss. The approval of the membership in NC Coalition of Charter schools was moved to a discussion item.

Brenda called on Katie for the Head of School Update.

Katie congratulated 7 teachers for receiving the EVOSS bonus for outstanding growth.

Katie reported that the school was awarded a \$27,000.00 grant from the “Read to Achieve” program for excellent reading scores.

The mid-year report was discussed with Katie stating that we are on track to perform better in the spring semester. We had growth in ELA and Math. We are improving in science.

The enrollment update said that we are at 3100 students with no wait list for k-2 grades. At the semester break, we did fill class vacancies in 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grades.

Katie talked about the Beginning Teacher program which is monitored by the state, and we received outstanding comments – we are doing this well with good supports, good cross training between schools and continued support once the program has finished. The state was very pleased by the virtual world success we are having.

Brenda thanked Katie and asked Chad to present the finance report.

Chad gave a quarterly update. He started with reviewing the invoice and moved on to the LEA funding update. He explained to the board members that the funding significantly increased with the new legislation passed and this will significantly help our school in the coming year. He noted that we will be able to increase the number of teachers and staff adding 40 more and there is money set aside for bonuses if the board chooses to leave it in the proposed budget. He also suggested that the board consider spending an additional \$1.5m on additional needs for the school.

Mark asked if there were any cost increases with this new funding model and Chad confirmed that the 4% payment to Stride will increase somewhat because of the number of new users, but the formula does not change – this cost is still reflecting the 4% that we pay to Stride.

There was some discussion about removing the current discount that Stride provides to NCVA and we asked to hold off on those conversations until April. Chad agreed.

Chad went on to present the pricing for NCVA which is unique to our school because the State Board of Education required that their traditional funding formula be changed because they did not believe their proposed formula would allow the school to be sustainable.

There was discussion about us paying for marketing when we have been asking for a more tailored marketing plan that highlights NCVA as a K12 school. Scott said that he would discuss with the marketing team at K12.

Brenda thanked Chad for his presentation and asked Sara to give the Executive Director update.

Sara told the board that the Coalition for Charter School Advocacy has increased their annual dues to \$13,000.00. She explained that they have been very helpful and recommended that they agree to this increase and continue to be a member. The board agreed and will vote to increase their payment when our next dues are due.

Sara explained that the Academic committee had met in January and are making the recommendation that next year we grow by an additional 20% plus maintain no waitlist for k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Sara next presented the “wishlist” from the school administrators and the board said they will carefully consider the requests.

Sara explained that the Parent’s Bill of Rights policy needs to be included in the Parent/Student Handbook as does the policy for the Acknowledgment of Parent Training Completion form.

Brenda then asked for a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personal information of students. Chris made the motion and Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote. It was unanimous.

The Board entered closed session to discuss 5 pending cases for administrative withdrawal. All 5 cases were discussed at length. At the end of the discussion, the Board returned to regular session.

Brenda asked for a vote on the outstanding items of the meeting: to approved the December bill, to include the Parent Bill or Rights and the Acknowledgement of the Parent Training Completion form, and to increase the enrollment to 3800 students next year: a 20% increase plus room for adding students k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade so as not to maintain a waitlist for those grades. Mark made a motion to approved all of the above. Chris seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda then called for a vote on the 5 students to be administratively withdrawn. Chris made the motion to withdraw all 5 of them. Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote. It was unanimous.

Brenda then asked for a motion to adjourn. Chris made a motion to adjourn. Steven seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.