

Meeting Minutes  
11-10-2025

ATTENDEES:

Walter Martin – Chair of the Board  
Steve Moody – Treasurer of the Board  
Natalie Wright – Secretary for the Board  
Mark Fleming – Board member  
Marcia Simmons – Board member  
Kristina Rodrigues – HOS  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director for the Board

At 5:00 Walter declared a quorum and called the board to order.

Sara read the mission statement.

Walter asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes from the last meeting. Marcia made the motion. Steve seconded the motion. Walter called the vote: it was unanimous.

There were no communication requests, parents wishing to speak or consent items.

Walter asked for the HOS update.

Kristina presented the enrollment since 11-1: our current enrollment is 4087 slightly down from the previous month. We have 464 EC students and there are still some in the process of being identified. There are 477 MTSS tier 2 and 3 students and there is a waitlist. There are 107 ELL students which is a slight increase since last year. There are 117 students k-12 enrolled in the AIG program and identification of students continues. There are 1463 FRL students identified and there is an effort at hand to contact those who have not yet filled out the appropriate forms. We expect this number to increase by 1-3% points. We have a staff of 285 and counting. There are still key positions to be filled: 5 in MS, 4 in HS and several in Administration. HS EC just filled a position that will begin in January. All hires, including intense remediation staff (22) at this point will begin in January.

Check-ins are completed and MS is slightly below the EL and HS but they were also experiencing technical difficulties during the check-ins. Kristina reminded the board that check-ins are a snapshot in time and the numbers will look very different on the EOG's.

The Data dig done by all AA's across the school is completed. The most significant finding is that students are regressing YOY. There were some increases in ACT and proficiency, but the growth of our low performing students is the issue. Those behind 3 or more years are hard to put into the existing model so the switch has been made to look at the declining foundational skills and focusing on accountability. In the reorganization, there will be changes to positions including realigning student support advisors and new hires to focus on this needed foundational skills. Students will be the center, surrounded by the teachers who are surrounded by the support staff (remediation teachers, student support staff and counselors). And rigorous professional development for teachers is critical for success also. Opportunity Culture creates Master teachers

who are the most successful teachers will be trained to coach a team of 3 teachers creating feedback loops for success.

Natalie asked if Opportunity Culture provided data of their success in NC. Kristina said yes citing Mecklenburg's success to the point where all schools now are implementing this method and showing significant success. This program uses current staff to improve their methods.

Natalie asked if intense remediation teachers will pull students from classes full time. Kristina explained in Phase I which will begin in January and continue to the end of the year, the students will be pulled but not for the full day. Come next year, Phase II will last the full year and students who are 3 or more years will be and Opportunity Culture will help us find the best way to do this. Currently, all remediation is focused on students who are one year behind which does not help those students who are much further behind with their foundational skills.

Walter thanked Kristina and asked Chad for the financial report

Chad presented the monthly bill noting that it was approximately half of the previous month's bills since that one had included two months in one bill. He noted we are 230 students above enrollment numbers upon which our budget was based. This budget indicates, if we were to remain within the current spending as identified in the budget, we will have a \$700k surplus this year and a \$16.4 m fund balance by the end of the year. It does not include any spending voted on tonight.

Chad said they have filed for an extension for the 990 forms and that the audit is nearly finished. Steve asked if the audit needs to be approved by the board and when is the deadline for that approval? Chad said the audit needs to be filed by 11/30. Steve noted this is Thanksgiving week and we need to do it prior to the holiday. The board discussed this and asked that the approval meeting be scheduled for 11/24. Chad said he can make that happen.

Walter thanked Chad and asked Sara for the Ex Director's report.

Sara said there are several votes for tonight's meeting:

- 1) Approval of the contract with Public Impact (Opportunity Culture) for \$400k over two years
- 2) Approval of the reorganization and increase of intensive remediation for all grades for \$6m over 5 years
- 3) A suggested consideration to provide our FRL students' families with financial support if the SNAP program continues to not provide sufficient funding for families. Marcia said she feels bad about the struggle these families are facing, but since the Congress is considering this topic this week, we should wait until if they continue to fund the program. The board unanimously agreed with her.
- 4) A vote to increase the holiday gift to all teachers from \$50.00 to \$100.00. All board members agreed this is a good thing.

Sara then reminded everyone we will be meeting next Wednesday at the meeting for the CSRB. All are prepared and ready to be there. And she also reminded them that the annual workshop will be held at the JB Duke hotel in Durham February 6-8.

Walter thanked Sara and moved on to the votes. He reminded everyone that Chris asked him to be his proxy and he would including his votes as directed.

Walter asked for a motion to pay the Stride bill. Steve made the motion. Mark seconded it. Walter called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to approve the contract with Public Impact for \$400k over two years. Steve made the motion. Mark seconded it. Walter called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to approve the reorganization including intensive remediation for all grades; 20 new positions, a lead position and a Director of Accountability and Curriculum for \$6m over 5 years. Marcia made the motion. Mark seconded it. Walter called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to increase the holiday giving to teachers to \$100.00. Natalie made the motion. Marcia seconded it. Walter called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Steve seconded the motion. Walter called the vote: it was unanimous.

The meeting ended at 5:33.