

Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2024  
8:30 AM

ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Walter Martin – Vice Chair  
Steven Peters – Treasurer  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Natalie Wright - Board Member  
Steve Moody – Board Member  
Scott Sides – K12  
Chad Long – K12  
Kate Haskhell – K12  
Ben Gerhardt – K12  
Katie Gomersall – Head of School  
Tasha Parnell – HS Administrator  
Kristy Rodriguez – MS Administrator  
Kelly Shanahan – EL Administrator  
Hannah Forbes – Operations Manager

Brenda called the meeting to order at 8:33.

Brenda asked for a motion to accept the agenda and the previous meeting minutes. Steve M. made the motion; Mark Fleming seconded it. Brenda called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Steve P. read the mission statement.

Brenda asked Katie to give the Head of School report.

Katie said that they will be rolling out mini professional development sessions to the board. These are produced and provided by Stride and run for about 15 minutes. They will begin sharing them with the Board in the coming months.

Katie updated the board regarding the enrollment procedures. In order to better place incoming students, the forms for enrollment are being changed to detect the appropriate starting place for children and better identify in which grade they should be placed. They are hoping this will make it easier for students to be placed based on academic achievement rather than their age.

Katie gave an update on our staff in the WNC disaster areas. We have three staff members who continue to be in challenging situations and the board suggested helping them with a bonus. Katie appreciated the idea. She also mentioned that funding is being made available to charter schools for social/emotional services in the area and that the ACT decided to administer their testing in March to give them more time for preparation.

Katie gave an update on the credit recovery program now halfway through its first year. There are 85 students who at risk who have been placed into the program. They are seeing very promising results so far.

The Career Readiness program director has mini certifications embedded in the course. And there were six students who applied for one of the virtual internships with one of our 12<sup>th</sup> graders receiving the internship.

Lastly, Katie talked about a program she would like to bring to the school. Angelique Monet is a children's author who created the book, "the Bravest Worrier". She wrote this for her daughter who was always worrying about school. She has a cross-school program to talk with students about this book and how she created it. Katie asked for \$2,000.00 to bring the author virtually into our school to present separately to elementary, middle and high school students tailored presentations appropriate for their age group. And a final program for interested parents to learn about talking with their children about worry.

Brenda thanked her for her presentation and asked Chad Long to present the monthly bill.

Chad began his presentation with an explanation of the new funding model. We presented our final ADM in October and the larger of the two (Sept and Oct) will be chosen for our funding. It will be based on 5561 enrollments. Based on our current staff of 257 we should realize a surplus of \$1.1 m

Sara asked Chad to discuss how limiting the enrollment to what is already enrolled now, what would our budget look like? Chad explained that given we settled are now past the biggest fluctuations in our enrollment, we should lose approximately 107 additional students and given our current actual enrollment, we will be able to stop our enrollment as of November 4<sup>th</sup> and still remain financially neutral. We will lose some LEA funding, but it will not significantly impact us. With the reduction in students, we will also realize a reduction in student costs to our bill hence leaving us at the end of the year with an approximate \$1.2 m.

And as a housekeeping item, Chad explained we are currently going through our annual financial audit, and it is due the end of the month. He fully expects nothing will change and we will have a clean audit.

Brenda thanked Chad for his presentations and asked Sara to give the Executive Director's update.

Sara started by discussing the assistance for our three staff members who continue to be in difficult situations. Two of the members have significant damage to their homes; the third had a tree fall on her car and completely total it. The board discussed providing some financial relief to them through a bonus.

Sara spoke of the exception we are facing with last year's scholarship recipient and asked for the board to consider a one-time exception to the rule of providing proof of enrollment before receiving the scholarship. Because of the post-secondary studies she wishes to enroll in, she must make a payment before enrolling. Once she has made the payment, we will send the scholarship money directly to her.

Sara explained there are three new teachers who have joined the school: Chloe Long – ELL teacher; Amber Lang – Counselor; and Alexandra Marinello – EC teacher.

Sara told the board that she and Chad had spoken with Aaron Beaulieu about finding additional funding owed to us from different LEA's across the state based on the new funding in the past two years and what additional funds are owed to us. After our meeting we would like to continue working with him to see what other districts may owe us.

Brenda thanked Sara for her report and moved on to action items.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the monthly Stride bill. Steve M. made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to support our 3 staff members affected by the hurricane. Chris made the motion to provide them with a \$5,000.00 bonus after taxes; Natalie seconded it. Brenda called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve payment of the scholarship to the student with unusual circumstances. Walter made the motion; Chris seconded it. Brenda called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Sara then explained the ability of the board to be able to vote via email. She recommended that given we have the academic meeting to come and there could be changes the board may want to make that they adopt the process to vote by email according to the NC Non-profit Act.

Brenda asked for a motion to accept the NC Non-profit Act requirements to allow the board to vote via email. Steve M. made a motion to vote by email on Monday 11-4-24 regarding any changes the board wishes to make as a result of the academic meeting; Steven Peters seconded it. Brenda called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to grant \$2,000.00 to Katie to pay for Angelique Monet to come present to the student body and parents. Steve M. made the motion; Chris seconded it; it was unanimous.

Brenda made a motion to allow Chad and Sara to continue working with Aaron Beaulieu regarding finding missing funds owed from the different LEA's. Walter made the motion; Natalie seconded it; Brenda asked for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark made the motion; Walter seconded it; Brenda asked for the vote: it was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 AM

NOTE: Remote voting via email in accordance with the motion voted on November 2, 2024 was held on Monday, November 3, 2024. The motion to stop rolling enrollment as of November 3 was unanimously approved by the full board via email from each board member.

