Minutes for Wednesday, March 10, 2021

2pm, Virtual Meeting

In attendance: President Meghan Agresto, VP Al Marzetti, Treasurer Bryan Daggett, Secretary Allison Broughton, Frieda Harris, Susan Taylor. SIP committee: Erin Price. Member of the public: Karen Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm. A quorum was established.

Board action

* Approve February minutes – Al made a motion to approve February’s minutes. Bryan seconded, and all voted in favor.
* Approve 2021-2022 school calendar – Meghan made a motion to approve the calendar. Susan seconded, and all voted in favor.
* Review educational costs for Kat Fretwell – tabled until next meeting
* Acadia contract – 3-year commitment; a continuation of our contract at the same rate. Discussion: Their performance, particularly during Covid, has been great. Bryan made a motion to approve the Acadia contract. Al seconded, and all voted in favor.

President’s Report

* Feedback from virtual parent/staff/board interviews with Office of Charter Schools Review – Can send parent suggestions to SIP (i.e. lack of sports teams) but none of the “needs improvement” feedback needs to be addressed to be renewed for another 10 years.
* Performance review – up to date (nepotism policy unchanged, feedback from interviews updated to epicenter database, confirmed we’re not an underperforming school)
* All teachers have now had their 2nd vaccination. We are still following the most recent guidelines from Board of Education (masks, 6-feet distance).
* WIDA testing went smoothly
* Cleaning at the chapel – Teacher Fretwell no longer cleans at the chapel due to her duties at the schoolhouse. Pastor Jim doesn’t think we need a new contract cleaning person. All teachers in the chapel are now double-checking to make sure all trash is out, especially anything that might attract rodents.
* Lottery report from lottery held on March 5 – 23 people on the lottery. All five WEVS siblings were admitted. One additional student (1) was offered a seat.
* REAP Grant submitted; PRC 169 (almost $10,000) pending – can be used for a contract counseling person; PRC 167 update (EC allotment)—waived due to time required for small sum ($120).
* Ms. Marcy Moore announced in our monthly newsletter that this is her last year

Treasurer’s Report

Financially, the school remains in excellent shape. Two-thirds of the way through the fiscal year expenses are 10+ % under budget, with a year-to-date surplus of $ 46K. Recall that we included a reduction in state funds in the budget in anticipation of fallout from the COVID crisis. Instead, almost half of the surplus is due to additional state funds related to the COVID crisis. The month of February had $40K in revenue and $31K in expenses.

In February over $5K of the EC teacher expenses were allocated to the IDEA VI-B Handicap 060 funds referenced in last month’s report, thereby increasing the surplus. The school is on track to fully utilize state funding and DOE grants by the end of the fiscal year.

Assets now total $ 616K, with the largest amount ($272) in the Towne Bank operating account. There is $250K in CDs at First National and $93K in CDs at Atlantic Union.

Next year’s budget discussion: Bigger school (by two students) without a significant increase in expenses. There may be some building expenses—potentially setting aside $25,000 for architecture; ability to donate stock to the school for the capital campaign—do any local banks offer brokerage service? Look into Fidelity, Vanguard, TD Waterhouse—one of the big online companies that will accommodate non-profits.

Committee Reports

* Curriculum- In the process of setting up evaluations for next week—Tuesday and Wednesday.
* Building - Capital Campaign Planning: Bryan spoke with Ralph Lassiter, who said he will send architectural renderings. He may also submit a proposal for the new school building. Planning to request parent/student/community member interviews RE: the positive impact of WEVS in the community + possibilities for the new building. A print mailing will go to Corolla residents and businesses, along with an email blast.
* Grievance – none

New Business

* Hiring for next year after confirming feasibility of schedule draft of teachers for 2021-2022 – Recommendation to hire a middle school history or ELA teacher who is willing to acquire the other certification (history or ELA) through Praxis. This would allow team teaching—2 teachers working together on the same thing at the same time. Teacher Aide Gill would take some classes in this scenario. Every teacher would get a full planning period. Teacher-Admin Wolff could move into administrative role + PBL. Preparing to open positions for contract student counselor (4-5 hours) and for middle school teacher. Ideal criteria for new teaching hire: experience, willingness to teach anything but certification in middle school ELA or history (and willingness to acquire the other through Praxis).
* Considering Back to School Plan for all – Hoping to have all students back in the classroom next fall.
* Do we need to be discussing summer school/Jumpstart hours again? – PRC 121 ($16,000) was used to continue learning for several students over the summer as well as PD for virtual school.

 Old Business – none

Teacher/ Teacher/Admin update

* Safety plan meeting – Teacher-Admin Wolff met with Deputy Large on Friday. Our plan is in process, to be completed by end of May. Dep. Large would like to strengthen the relationship between the sheriff’s department and the school. The K-9 deputy is coming over on Wednesday for a demonstration. Deputy Large is our school resource officer and has been trained as a school resource officer.
* Safe schools proposal – teachers required to complete 6 hours of safe school PD (for mental health, sex trafficking, blood borne pathogens, etc.). Vector Solutions provides training for teachers ($100 per teacher per year) and offers student resources. Teacher-Admin Wolff will move forward
* Mental health plan- School needs a written plan. Teacher-Admin Wolff has reached out to Currituck County and Exploris for their plans. Most of the work on this will be done over the summer and the policy will likely be presented at July/August board meeting.
* SIP update – There are 112 standards. Board agrees that Teacher-Admin Wolff can check off the following as fully implemented and ongoing: 1) Instructional teams meet regularly to review effective implementation and student progress. 2)LEA/school promotes a school culture in which professional collaboration is valued and emphasized by all.
* Student Advisory Committee (StAC) proposal—Leadership opportunity for 7th and 8th graders and opportunity for student voice in school leadership, including involvement in planning, Board meetings, community outreach, and newsletter. Kerri Engley will serve as parent facilitator. Implementation possibly by the end of this school year, certainly by next year.
* McKinney Vento policy approval and results from survey – Policy has to be renewed every year. Student survey went out in the newsletter. If a student is identified, the school will connect them with community resources. Al made a motion to approve the McKinney Vento policy. Susan seconded and all voted in favor.

Public Comment – none

Meghan made a motion to close the meeting. Susan seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:48pm.