Minutes for Wednesday March 8, 2023 – 2pm

Via Zoom or in person at Corolla Library

In attendance: President Meghan Agresto, VP Al Marzetti, Treasurer Bryan Daggett, Secretary Allison Broughton, Susan Taylor, Frieda Harris. Executive Director Sylvia Wolff. Members of the public: Karen Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. A quorum was established.

Board action

* Approve March minutes – Meghan made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Susan seconded and all voted in favor.
* Discuss moving money to a CD – Rates are improving. Al made a motion to move up to $600k to a short-term CDs at Bryan’s discretion. Meghan seconded and all voted in favor.
* Change continuing education reimbursement policy up to 6 hours – Current reimbursement policy for teachers is 3 hours per semester but most programs expect 2 classes (6 hours) per semester. Meghan made a motion to change the policy to allow teachers to be reimbursed for up to 6 credit hours per semester. Susan seconded and all voted in favor.

Board President/Director’s Update

* Lottery Update – The lottery drawing was held on Friday, March 3. The lottery list had 16 names for 13 available seats. Those drawn have until this Friday 3/10 to confirm.
* Meghan has created a Dropbox file in CEF Finance for records requests (now regularly received from openthebooks.com/nc).
* Teacher appreciation bowling evening – Last Saturday. Fun was had by all.
* Tony Cerri walking tour and insurance – Have discussed with insurance and seems easy but process is not finalized.
* REAP submitted – Submitted last weekend. Grant pays $20k for the aide position. Process has been streamlined.
* Math teacher hiring discussion – Meghan updated the employment interest form on the website to include the applicant’s credentials. Two potentially qualified candidates have been in contact. One will not be moving to Corolla until June and waiting on a response from the other. In the meantime, Sylvia will review and post the position soon.
* SIP updates – Great meeting on Monday. Upcoming newsletter has a request for a middle school SIP representative, as previous representative is no longer in school. The committee is helping to orchestrate a groundbreaking party on May 6.
* Epicenter/Performance Review Updates – Upcoming submissions: Nepotism Policy (unchanged) and proof that School Performance is posted on website.
* Professional Development – Sylvia and Teachers Voldish, Kelly, and Fretwell are participating in LETRS, a state-sponsored literacy program. It is a self-paced 30-hour program with a one-day online component. All new teachers are required to observe outside of school for BTSP—all have done or scheduled. Sylvia has completed PowerSchool training by the state. Teacher Gill attended Tech Fest in Currituck and came back with helpful info to share, including social emotional mapping tools. Teachers Gill and Voldish are both in Masters’ programs and doing great.
* Events –Field trip update – CSI and Jockey’s Ridge trip was a success. Ocracoke camping trip is scheduled for April 3-5. Luray Caverns scheduled for April 26-28. KidWind is April 1. Goldilocks on trial – Denise, a lawyer and professor, is training students for a trial on Friday 3/10 at 2:30pm.
* No school on Monday (following time change).
* ISIP scores – flagged: 9% reading, 4% math – no surprises. All already identified by staff. On track with last year’s scores.
* Tech companies who have responded to bid to wire the school are scheduled to walk through tomorrow, 3/9.

Treasurer’s Report

For the month of February overall expenses (including the work on the new building) exceeded revenues and donations as it was a lighter donations month and significant invoices for the architect and engineering services were paid.

Based on the average monthly draw of state funds ($33.5k) all funds will be received by the end of March. That will equate to $100k less revenue from the state in the 4th quarter, however some of that monthly shortfall in revenue will be made up by the counties as each have more than 50% of budget remaining with 1/3 of the fiscal year remaining.

We are on budget in almost all expense categories - we are under in technology and utilities and over in guidance services.

Over $125k on the new building has been spent so far this fiscal year (architectural services, engineering services, fundraising expenses, and legal expenses.)

As of 3/5/23 the operating account has $207k and the new building account has $905k for a total of $1.12M. A higher interest rate is now being earned on the new building account.

Committee Reports

* Curriculum Committee update – Susan has observed Teachers Allen, Gill, Voldish, and Wolff. All but Teacher Gill have their write ups. Scheduling this week and next for Teachers Kelly and Fretwell. Sylvia introduced the concept of standards based grading for K-1, which emphasizes subject mastery, at the recent meeting of the expanded committee.. The expanded committee will meet again on May 2. Classroom visits were great.
* Capital Campaign Committee Update – Have exceeded $1.35M fundraising goal—including pledges and money spent: 1.555M. Construction bids are due March 22, and will include only the cost of the building, nothing inside of it. Hang 10 for 10 – 10 organizations to have events and share 10% of profits. Will host a groundbreaking party to celebrate donors in the new building lot on the evening of May 6—in process: tents, chairs, band, food, alcohol, permitting. It will be both a celebration and a fundraising event. Uncle Ike’s raised $7,000 on Super Bowl Sunday, and will present the check on Friday. Sun Realty photo op on Friday as well, for a $2500 donation. Asking for 100% participation for parents. TownBank will give the remaining $25k of their $50k donation at the end of March.
* Facilities Committee – Bids are due back on March 22. Out to 9 or 10 builders. No permits yet from county pending NCDOT approval of drop-off lane procedure.
* Grievance Committee – n/a

Public comment – Despite Surf Club not being a school-sponsored activity, there is a perception (because teachers attend as community members) that the school has some responsibility. The newsletter will include a statement reminding families that community activities, including Surf Club, are not sponsored by the school and parents are responsible for supervising their children. The school’s Remind will not announce these types of events.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.