Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2016

Call to Order:

Clint White called to order a meeting of the ECS Board of Directors on January 18, 2016 at 7:05 p.m. in the ECS Multi-Purpose Room.

Present: Bill Borter, Jim Hollis, Charlie Kennedy, Bill Kroll, Kristy McClure, Kevin Myers, Clint White

Absent: Peter Henderson

Minutes

Kevin Myers moved to approve the minutes from the December 2016 ECS Board meeting as distributed prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Hollis and unanimously approved.

Endeavor Foundation Update

Kevin Myers reported in Joe Montgomery's absence. While the Foundation Board did not meet in November, they are still working on setting the school building's financial reserves. Bill Borter advised the Board that Thomas Judy & Tucker (TJT) are likely to seek a price increase from their 2016 audit quote.

Treasurer's Report

Kristy McClure has reviewed the monthly budget reports, and we are on-track for our year-to-date budget matching actuals. Bank Balances – BBVA is $1,658,506.22 and BB&T is $9,686.28. We will be opening a brokerage account for handling stock transactions when donations are made and an additional account to hold a minimum of $50,000 for the "dissolution of a charter school" pursuant to NC Gen. Stat. § 115C-218.100.

Eddie Goodall of Goodall Consulting presented to the Board about the services offered by his firm along with LBA Haynes Strand, PLLC for Charter School Accounting. Eddie provided his background in Charter Schools and state government, and how he partners with the accounting firm for the "nuts and bolts" of the finance and accounting work. They provide services for approximately 15 charter schools. Typical contracts will include accounts payable and receivable processing; payroll processing; bank reconciliation and Board reports; quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reporting and processing; and other items as needed by clients.

The Board asked some clarifying questions around how budget reconciliation would work, and the ability for LBA Haynes Strand to provide balance sheets when needed. These are not provided. Mr. Goodall then provided the Board a list of reference accounts that we can reach out to for references.

Cory Draughon of Charter Success then presented to the Board about his firm's offerings. Charter Success provides financial, building and student information services. They currently serve seven NC Charter Schools. Mr. Draughon had been running Charter Success as a part-time position while founding and serving as Principal at Voyager Academy High School. His firm provides invoicing, payroll, state and federal reporting, Board consulting, student information processing, lottery support, background checks, and monthly on-site finance meetings. Mr. Draughon talked about how Charter Success monitors contracted services and ensures timely response to requests and tasks by using teamwork.com.

The Board asked some clarifying questions on services offered. On the specific question of balance sheets, Mr. Draughon mentioned that they have been able to create reports that meet the needs of loan covenants for other schools, and can work the ability to provide audited financial statements into the contract if needed. He also talked about budget reconciliation and the flexibility and customization available in the state LINQ system that we may not be taking advantage of today.

Director's Update

There were two snow days, which we are making up on both MLK and President's Day half-days so that we can make up before February, when we normally see snow days.

A reminder that there is a 'weird' trackout calendar this quarter, due to Easter falling late. We will transition from quarter to quarter over a half-day, and have trackout several weeks later.

We have 11 open seats in kindergarten and none in other grades at this time. We expect some movement as the school year comes to a close and over the summer, but do not anticipate most siblings on waiting lists to gain entry.

We have an artist-in-residence coming to create a sculpture from used water bottles ; we had a cultural arts performance from 'The Beast', performing "Sankora"; and a Shakespearean program for 7th grade as part of the cultural arts program.

There has been a discussion as a staff about smart watches and other kinds of smart devices beyond phones and tablets. We believe that we can handle these under our normal technology use policies but will review to ensure that we are covered for more devices like wearables and revisit the policy language if needed.

The scheduled field-trip to the Whitewater center is still scheduled, but there has been discussion about the safety of the trip due to the news in the past year about issues at the Center. It is the belief of staff that the Whitewater Center is just as safe as it has been in the past (if not more so given the scrutiny) and we have never had issues in the past. Christi asked for input from the Board on if there were any reservations about taking the trip, and there were none from the Board.

ECS Charter Renewal

The renewal was submitted. The next step is the on-site visit. They would like to meet with the entire Board as well as a selection of both staff and parents. We need to find a 45 minute slot on February 21 for the Board to meet between 8am and 3pm. Kevin Myers took the action to gain consensus on the time and get back to Christi with the Board's preference.

Board 2016-17 Priorities Updates

Jim Hollis gave an update on the creation of a technology plan for Endeavor. The biggest issue that they are tackling first is creating an inventory around what technology we have in the building, and establishing a business continuity plan around critical systems such as phones, networking, and HVAC.

Kevin Myers mentioned that long-range planning will be addressed by the Foundation at the January 29 meeting referenced in the Foundation update above.

Clint White updated the Board on field use. We are working with the City of Wake Forest on potentially developing unused portions of the site for use by both Endeavor and the surrounding community.

On policies, Bill Kroll detailed that we are reviewing the technology acceptable use policy and working through a process of reviewing all other policies.

Public Comments

Kevin Ketchum came to talk about our technology situation, but his questions were answered during the Priorities update. He also had a question about the current location for basketball and its distance from the school. The Board talked about options (mentioned earlier in the meeting) for improvements to athletic facilities and potential talks with Town of Wake Forest.

Closed Session

Clint White moved that the Board go into closed session in accordance with North Carolina statute 143.318.11 (a) (6). Kevin Myers seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board moved into closed session at 8:31 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 10:16 p.m.

Adjournment

Clint White moved to adjourn the meeting.   Kevin Myers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously at 10:17 p.m.