Endeavor
Charter School

Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: April 24, 2017

Call to Order:

Clint White called to order a meeting of the ECS Board of Directors on April 24, 2017 at 7:03 p.m. in the ECS Multi-Purpose Room.

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

Absent: Peter Henderson, Bill Borter

Minutes

Clint White moved to approve the minutes from the March 2017 ECS Board meeting as distributed prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Hollis and unanimously approved.

Endeavor Foundation Update

The Foundation is investigating funding the balance of a permanent marker on Burlington Mills that denotes the entrance to Endeavor Charter School.

Treasurer's Report

Kristy McClure and the Finance Committee has reviewed the monthly budget reports, and we are on-track for our year-to-date budget matching actuals. Bank Balances – BBVA is $1,972,222.79 and BB&T is $12,573.38.

Kristy updated the Board that we are in the process of renewing the contact with the YMCA of the Triangle for our after-school program. We have opened our brokerage account and have that properly structured should we receive gifts of stocks or bonds, and should we decide to invest per the discussions around an Investment Policy.

We are still in the process of understanding the $50,000 dissolution account – how it is structured and accounted. We are trying to avoid a $50,000 hit to the income statement depending upon how it is handled.

We are in the process of preparing the 2017-2018 Budget. We are working with Charter Success to create the budget categories and work on the transfer of business from Acadia.

We also reviewed the situation with our audit firm, and Kristy is recommending that we continue our relationship with Thomas, Judy and Tucker. Kristy McClure moved that we approve the proposed audit contract with TJT for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Audit. Jim Hollis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy Discussions

The Board discussed the proposed Technology Acceptable Use policy that was discussed at the March Board meeting. Jim Hollis talked to the Board about the policies he researched from other similar schools, and the customization that he has done to hold more accountability to students and staff for off-campus related social media activity that reflects on Endeavor Charter School.

The Board discussed the proposed break-up of the policies by grade levels, and also the separate Staff policy. The Discussion of the Staff policy centered around decreasing the level of specificity around the items we will police, and making it clear that our intent is to not monitor social media usage by staff unless it interferes with their ability to be affective in the classroom, or unless it creates an issue for other staff or administration. The Board then discussed the implications of the social media and bullying section for 6-8th graders are proposed in the draft, and clarified that the intention is to ensure a safe environment for our students, no matter where or when the social media content is created (on-campus or off). Jim Hollis and Christi Whiteside will involve the Leadership Team from the staff to review the current drafts and provide input on shaping another draft prior to the next Board meeting.

The Board then reviewed the Background Check policy. Bill Kroll discussed this proposed policy, telling the Board that this policy will cover the Board, volunteers, new hires and all teachers. There was discussion about the differences between this and current policy, namely the inclusion of current teachers (which has been practice, but not policy). Bill Kroll moved that the Board approve the Background Check policy as proposed. Charlie Kennedy seconded. The Board approved unanimously.

The Board then discussed a Math Placement Override Policy update. Christi Whiteside proposed changes to the policy make it clear how and when overrides can occur, which makes it clear that parents can continue to overrule the teachers, but that the student will need to demonstrate an ability to keep pace with the course placement during the first few weeks of the school year when they start the placement.

Jim Hollis asked for clarification on the number of data points that might be available in determining a grade. Christi Whiteside made it clear that between course work, quizzes and tests, there are enough data points to demonstrate ability to keep up by 15 days. Clint White raised the issue of whether this must be a Board policy. The recommendation of the Board is that we take the proposed wording and add it to the placement communication, and that it become administration policy, but that it need not be a formal Board policy.

Director's Update

Charter Success will be at the next Board meeting to talk about the Long-Term Reserve study. The administration

Jacob David, one of our 7th Graders, won the school and regional geography bee. He missed qualifying for the national bee by one question.

Planning for the 10th Anniversary continues. We have a logo that has been created and are working on funding a permanent sign for the school (as mentioned in the Foundation update).

Wednesday a John Maxwell Group presentation will be held. Nic Vujicuc will be in the building presenting to grades 5-8.

We are looking for more speakers for next year on social media. We have reached out to the Social Media Institute for potential presentations on how to use it affectively as a student.

A parent that runs Zerorez donated the cleaning of the rugs in the K-2 hallway over trackout as an in-kind donation

Development Committee Update

Lauren Manfreda updated the Board on the progress with our Development Committee and fundraising. We are just under $93,000 in pledged donations. We are at 55% participation as a school. This matches what Raleigh Charter sees in their community, so we are excited. Only two grades have under 50% participation.

The town hall on March 26 was a big success. We plan to continue this next year.

We have let the family that asked about the gift of stock about how to donate now that we have created the account. We also plan to resurrect the brick program next year for the 10th anniversary as an additional fundraiser.

We plan to have a parent survey between now and the end of the year. This will include an open-ended question around what long-term things that parents might want to see in the future on the campus.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Leadership Academy application process is starting again. There is a time commitment for the immersive 11-month program, including some overnight programs. There is a requirement for two Board members to commit. The application is due May 15. Clint White will work with Lauren between now and the application deadline on securing our commitment.

Board Recruiting

Kevin Myers updated the Board on some community members that have reached out about volunteering at the school. There are two potential candidates that do not currently have children in the school but are interested in finding out more about the Board. Kevin will be having an introductory conversation with each between now and the next Board meeting, and will work with Clint and others on arranging interviews if appropriate and mutually agreed.

Charlie Kennedy also has had contact with a potential Board candidate, and will pass that contact along to Clint White for follow-up.

Board Priorities Updates

Jim Hollis talked about progress on the inventory of the current technology, and the process he is using for establishing a technology refresh program. The Board discussed the need to engage in this, and determining the right course of action as part of our preparation of the 2017-2018 budget. Jim will continue to prepare to contribute to the budget process for next year with his recommendations.

Financial Planning has been dropped to a lower priority while we focused on other higher priorities for the Finance team, but this will become the next focus are – essentially, establishing our investment priorities and policy. We will also have Charter Success at the next meeting to discuss the Reserve Study.

Public Comments

None.

Closed Session

Clint White moved that the Board go into closed session in accordance with North Carolina statute 143.318.11 (a) (6). Jim Hollis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board moved into closed session at 8:34 p.m.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 11:58 p.m.

Kristy McClure moved that the Board approve budget not to exceed $50,000 towards staff bonuses. Kevin Myers seconded. The motioned passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Clint White moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Kroll seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously at 12:03 p.m.