



Endeavor Board Meeting Agenda: August 15, 2011

Call to Order:

Lisa Springle

Lisa Springle called to order the regular meeting of the Endeavor Charter School Board of Directors at 7:03 pm in Endeavor's multi-purpose room.

Present:

Lisa Springle, Steve McAdams, Margaret Holder, Christian Nechyba, Helen Harris, Andy Kristianson, Larry Woolard, DJ Hill (arrived 7:11 pm)

Brief Updates:

2012-2013 Calendar

Maija McAdams

Maija McAdams reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2012-13 school year. School would continue to start in July to keep the quarters evenly divided, teacher workdays would occur the week before the last week of school, and spring break would coincide with the Wake County traditional schedule. Christian Nechyba moved to approve Draft 2 of the proposed 2012-13 calendar. Lisa Springle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. (DJ Hill not present for this vote.)

Enrichment Update

Tamara Santana

Tamara Santana provided an update from the enrichment program. 41 classes had been held in the 2011-12 school year; 358 students were enrolled in the after school program (decreased 92 from year 2, possibly due to sports and car pool), 296 students participated in morning music ensembles, 50 students in before school care, 27 students in academic mentoring, and 27 adults in parent education classes. Nine out of school students participated, and 20 out of school parents participated. Discounts awarded were reviewed. All programs were up and running for this year. A parent workshop on homework struggles would be scheduled in September.

Treasurer's Report

Margaret Holder

Larry Woolard

Larry Woolard stated that the school's two operating accounts had a balance of \$267,643.59. CD accounts with three banks had a total balance of \$654,124.31. All school accounts had a total balance of \$921,767.90. Margaret Holder stated that the updated budget was now projected to run a \$270,000 surplus for this year due to a correction of per student allotment from the state. Many other charters had made significant changes in their budgets because of DPI projections of significant budget cuts at the end of last year. The reasons for these projections and the

unexpected increase in revenues would be further analyzed. The final surplus for the 2011-12 school year was about \$218,000.

Director's Update

Steve McAdams

Steve McAdams provided a director's update. Extended math periods had been well received by parents and teachers. The school year had begun smoothly, and the new teachers were working well with the ECS faculty. Backup plans were in place for two teachers who were out for health reasons. A recent insurance meeting revealed that the school may get dividends back due to the school's excellent safety record. According to DPI's preliminary report, ECS would achieve the Honor School of Excellence designation for the third year in a row. ECS had also met all AYP goals, and had met criteria for high growth on EOG's. The Director thanked teachers for their outstanding work. Negotiations were in progress with the company performing the school's background checks.

Survey Themes Update

Christian Nechyba

Christian Nechyba reviewed the methodology being used to derive themes from last year's survey comments. A numerical summary as well as a review of key survey themes would be submitted for board consideration at the next board meeting.

Annual Health Update

Christian Nechyba

Christian Nechyba reviewed the annual staff health & medical orientation, and active school health & medical policies. Policies would be organized on the ECS website under a unified health/medical category, and this posting would be announced to the ECS community.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes

Christian Nechyba

Christian Nechyba moved for approval of minutes from the June 6 and June 13 board meetings. Lisa Springle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Faculty Approval

Andy Kristianson

Andy Kristianson moved to approve the 2011-12 contracts for four new faculty members: Katie Clemmons, Christine Tompkins, Kirsten Aylert, and Sarah Sparks. Lisa Springle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Presentations:

EOG Report

Christi Whiteside

Christi Whiteside reported that Endeavor had met 13 of 13 AYP goals for the past school year. Last year, all grades and all subjects except one showed growth, which was improved from four areas with no growth during the previous year. Steps were in place to achieve growth in this one remaining area (5th grade math), including double math periods and a dedicated math teacher. Changes for this year included double math blocks in grades 4-6, one dedicated math teacher in grades 4-6, a consistent math program in grades 2-5, daily mental math in grades 4-6, and daily problem solving in grades 4-6. Changes for this year in literature included increased conferencing, increased focus on nonfiction informational reading, and increased focus in

writing in all subjects. Endeavor continued to have an EC population slightly higher than the state average. Data-driven analysis includes individualized analysis of each child's pattern of achievement. An analysis of how individual students are expected to perform on EOG's is also provided for teachers. Total school proficiency stood at 96%.

Common Core Standards

Melissa Dougherty

Melissa Dougherty reported on common core standards, a state-led effort to establish a single set of clear educational standards for language arts and mathematics that states can share and voluntarily adopt. Whereas the standard course of study can be confusing, core standards are written in clear stair steps. The school is already working towards these standards in reading by lexiling, utilizing small group book studies, and reading across content areas. In math, some standards have moved to lower grades. Preparation of all students for algebra by 8th grade is an important goal. Students who excel should always be provided with new challenges. Understanding the "why" of math is emphasized, not just knowing the correct answer. Two workdays have already been held to review the shift to core standards, and teachers will meet in teams to continue the discussion.

Discuss & Decide:

Foundation Update

DJ Hill

Due to its proximity and lower cost, the Foundation had made an offer on a property on Strickland Road, and had therefore interrupted a period of exclusivity with the owner of the Burlington Mills site. It is unclear if an offer on the Strickland property will be accepted in the near term, however. The Foundation planned to use the next 30-45 days in order to interview potential developers and put together a more concrete proposal for the Burlington Mills property, with a plan to move forward with such a proposal, in consultation with the ECS board, if the offer on the Strickland property did not move toward a satisfactory conclusion. Weingarten Realty has indicated that they may redevelop the Forum Drive site entirely, so it is unclear if a lease renewal in the current location would be an option. The Foundation will provide updates as soon as further developments warrant.

Budget Update

Margaret Holder

Margaret Holder reviewed the revised revenue estimates for the 2011-12 school year, which, contrary to prior projections from Acadia and DPI for deep budget cuts, now indicated a projected \$270,000 surplus. Projections for deep cuts had been given statewide, and many schools had made very significant changes to their budgets in anticipation of these cuts. The board discussed how to proceed in allocating these funds. The Foundation estimated a need for about \$160,000 to \$180,000 in potential land carrying costs. A commitment to a 19-student class size would likely continue at least for this year, with the eventual goal of moving back to 18 students per class. The administration would determine priorities for allocating an additional \$100,000 and review their proposals at the September board meeting.

Steve McAdams moved to allocate \$2765.70 for the purchase of 6th grade math textbooks. Margaret Holder seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Staff Board Position

Andy Kristianson

Andy Kristianson stated that not enough staff had applied for the open staff board position to move the process forward. Applications for the staff board position would be held open for another month. The board would like at least three applicants before moving forward with the interview process.

"Big Picture" Topics:

Board priorities for the 2011-12 school year were discussed. The board discussed moving forward in facilitating the grants process, and will obtain further information on grant writing from Acadia, as well as solicit expertise from the ECS community. Disability benefits for staff were discussed, and information on benefits already available to staff through the state retirement plan would be disseminated. The question of tracking student and staff attrition was discussed. The board also had a brief discussion on how to establish a broader framework for board decision making.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Personnel Topics:

Andy Kristianson moved that the board go into closed session to discuss personnel topics, in accordance with statute 143.318.11 (a) (6). Christian Nechyba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The board went into closed session at 9:28 pm. The board returned to open session at 9:59 pm.

Adjournment:

The meeting reconvened in open session at 9:59 pm. Lisa Springle adjourned the meeting at 10 pm.