

# FRANKLIN ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE: January 8, 2018**

**TIME: 5:00**

**LOCATION: 648 Flaherty Ave., Wake Forest, NC**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Luddy      Rick Eddins      Al Merritt  
Bill Francis      Judy Nunnenkamp

## **Call to order**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. The board reviewed the minutes and there were no questions. Bob Luddy motioned that they be approved and Al Merritt seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Agenda items**

### **Franklin Academy Annual Audit – Jim Black**

Jim Black summarized the annual audit report conducted by the firm of Batchelor, Tillery & Roberts, LLP of Raleigh, North Carolina. He emphasized that this was not a fraud audit. In their audit of Franklin Academy, Black noted the audit revealed no issues to be addressed regarding governmental standards with reporting and compliance to regulations, as well as with the presentation of financial statements. The Management Discussion and Analysis part of the report summarized our financial year revealing 15 million in net assets. The Local Government Commission was sent an audit opinion by the firm of “unqualified,” which is the highest opinion possible from an auditor.

Questions: Bill Francis – Has the state changed compliance pieces? Jim Black – Yes. They change from year to year. From concussion policies to fire policies, even policies regarding residencies of board members and teacher certifications.

### **Charter Renewal Update – Denise Kent**

Charter School Advisory Committee met in December and recommended Franklin Academy for a 10-year charter renewal. The recommendation was passed to the State Board of Education on the third of January and been determined that Franklin Academy be granted a 10 year renewal.

### **Rekeying the FA5 Building – James Kornegay**

The entire FA5 building has been rekeyed. Over the years with the number of vendors and use of facilities, it became an appropriate time to simplify the system. We had a locksmith rekey three separate levels of building keys. One level for all classrooms, which will facilitate locking doors for all teachers and substitutes during the normal day as well as in an emergency situation. A second level key is for vendors needing access to classrooms as well as electrical rooms for maintenance. Lastly, is the third level or master key, which was only given to selected administrative staff for full access. This will also allow us to keep track of master keys and who has them.

### **Amendments to Franklin Academy Charter – James Kornegay**

Franklin Academy differs in the sequence of History courses from that of the State. Several years ago the State modified their requirements from three History course requirements to the current four History courses required for graduation. Our sequence requires students to take World History A, World History B, US History, and Civics & Economics. The State’s modification of these sequences several years ago led to World History, US History I, US History II, and Civics & Economics. Speaking with our teachers and faculty, it was decided to stay with the sequence we had and currently have in place. In 2011, we contacted the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) to get the alternative course sequence approved. It appears at the time the sequence was approved, however, upon further review, OCS had no record of the original approval. This is indicative of the disorganization within DPI. We are currently working on remedying this inconsistency with the

Office of Charter Schools and DPI. We will submit an amendment to our charter for the alternative course of History. While looking through the school's charter, several changes to our charter had not been updated, to include the current name of our school. For now, we will be seeking for the History course modifications and will look to submit any updates at a later date.

*A motion was made by Rick Eddins and seconded by Judy Nunnenkamp to approve the submission of alternative sequence of History courses to OCS and DPI. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## **Recommendation Process Overhaul Review and Approval – MaryJo Sullivan**

Work on aligning our grades 6 through 12 is well on the way. Through collaborative meetings with the Math departments, we have been able to realign our Math programs. Our recommendation processes For Honors and AP courses have also been reviewed and realigned school wide. Currently, the process in grades 9 through 12 allows students and parents the ability to override a teacher's recommendation for Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The current process in grades K through 8, allows for the teacher to recommend based on student data derived throughout the year. As we look to align and streamline these processes through grades 6 – 12 collectively, we will alter the process by removing the override option and replace it with our current K – 8 processes. Although we will be removing the override process, we have set in place a clearly defined recommendation criteria (*handed out to all in attendance*).

Each of the departments had the opportunity to develop the new criteria. Once collected from each of the departments, the criteria was streamlined and formatted for clarity. The new criteria are divided into three main parts: Academic Integrity, Attendance, and Content Area Proficiency. Each area is well defined and provides clear guidelines required to enroll in our Honors or AP courses. It is important to point out that the course goals and requirements were not changed, only the override process was the focus. In place of the override process, we will offer the option for students to submit requests to their teacher for reconsideration of their recommendation. Teachers will offer feedback to students in areas needed to grow and focus their efforts for improvement. A copy of the new Honors and AP Recommendation Criteria will be included in the course guide, as well as sent out school wide and to individual students and parents/guardians. This process is being put into place to insure the integrity of our Honors and AP courses.

Questions: Bill Francis – How often have we had conflicts between a teacher's recommendation and a parent has overridden that recommendation? Denise Kent – I would say that 95% of the time parents accept the recommendation from the teacher to avoid that student from struggling within the more rigorous course.

*Bob Luddy motioned to approve the new Honors and AP Criteria; Judy Nunnenkamp seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## **Adjournment**

No further questions – Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm