

FRANKLIN ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 6, 2018

TIME: 5:00

LOCATION: Board meeting via “ZOOM”

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Luddy Rick Eddins Al Merritt
Bill Francis Judy Nunnenkamp
BorBBo

Call to order

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

Agenda items

School Year Updates:

FA5 High School – MaryJo Sullivan

The school year is off to a great start. Staff is very responsive and supportive of our student-focused model for our school. It has substantially helped with some of the changes to streamline our program, as well as our instructional practices. Changes to our bell schedule, testing processes, our homework loads, along with our course recommendations have all been well received. We extended the drop add of classes for our students and teachers as well that may have had concerns regarding placements. This insures that our students are placed in a dynamic system that is responsive to their needs and also maintains levels for success, which is similar to what is done K-8. We are also working on ironing out some facility and technology issues on campus. Overall, the start of the year has been a positive one. Staff morale is much improved. Parent feedback has been very positive and our students are practicing the new expectations we have set forth.

Question:

Bob Luddy – There were initial concerns over the bell schedule and it’s efficiency. How is the bell schedule working and being received?

MaryJo Sullivan – I think it has worked really well. Initially, getting acclimated to the change both for teachers and students was a little rough the first few days. The students enjoy a daily flex period and adding a little more time toward FLEX has been beneficial for them. For the teachers, we have changed how we structure FLEX by providing time for office hours to be able to work intensively with students. Overall, this decision has resulted in a positive change.

FA 1-4 Elementary/Middle School – Denise Kent

We have started the school year on a positive note. There are 17 new teachers this year, which is an average turnover. Currently for grades K-8, we are picking up where we left off with the vertical and horizontal alignment. Along with that, we are looking to incorporate more data meetings, and remediation that is much more cohesive and integrated into our curriculum for middle school. Our enrollment K-12 is currently, 1650 students.

Question:

Judy Nunnenkamp – How many applications are there currently on the waitlist?

Denise Kent – We currently have approximately 1800 applications waitlisted K-12. The majority of our openings were in our kindergarten class. We also have a large amount of openings in the 9th grade. The majority of new students K-8 were siblings only.

Bill Francis added: From a budget standpoint, the state takes a weighted average enrollment for the first 20 days. With our budgeted number of 1640, the additional students support our current budget well. Great job to all involved.

Facilities Update – Denise Kent

This summer we worked at getting our facilities updated and up to standard where it was needed. Painting was completed at all of the campuses along with the cleaning of carpets throughout. Our Franklin Street campus (FA1/2) had a huge upgrade in facilities. Brandon Hafner led the team with revamping the playground. Elevations were reconfigured to allow more play area and have added turf for low maintenance. Beautification on the front of the building is well underway. Completion will be within the next month or two. These improvements send a message to students, teachers and families that we care about how our facilities look and that beauty and order resonates through all of our buildings.

Performance Framework – Denise Kent

The Office of Charter Schools requires our school to update and upload about 45 documents every year into a “Performance Framework.” These documents have been updated last year as well. This year when The Office of Charter schools went through the performance framework, we were found to be non-compliant and wanted them written in a certain way and updated to the specifications that the State now wants, although previous years we were fine.

-We will need a motion of approval for the Conflict of Interest and the Nepotism Policy written as requested in the new State guidelines. Along with those documents, the Admissions Policy was noted to be too general. Updates to reflect those changes have now been added to this policy to make them as clear as possible, to include all delineations and scenarios.

A motion was made by Judy Nunnenkamp and seconded by Rick Eddins to approve changes/updates to the Conflict of Interest, Admissions and Nepotism Policies. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Beginning Teacher Program or BT which is a licensure plan that we are required to file with the State of North Carolina every 5 years. It enables us to be able to renew and convert licenses. Renewals are for existing teachers with clear NC licenses. A conversion would be brand new teachers coming right out of college with an initial license. Although this plan was current, with no required updates until 2019, legislative changes with the BT Program and licensure caused necessary changes to be addressed. We updated our licensure plan for the BT Program to include all of the new laws and regulations that are required of schools.

A motion was made by Judy Nunnenkamp and seconded by Rick Eddins to approve changes and updates to the Beginning Teacher Program. The motion was approved unanimously.

Introduction of New Administrators – Denise Kent and MaryJo Sullivan

Julie Garrett is one of our newest administrators on the Chalks Rd. campus 3-8 grades. She was previously a middle school science teacher and was with us for several years before accepting this new position. Previous to being with Franklin Academy, Ms. Garrett was a teacher at East Wake Academy. Ms. Garrett has done a great job in her new position. She is very tenacious and is very eager which is a great skill set to have. She works well with both teachers and parents, which will serve her well in this position. Moving from teacher to administrator is a difficult transition, however, she has balanced it well.

Brian Fouts is our new Assistant Administrator at the high school campus. He has been my “Right hand man” and has done a fabulous job assisting with our facilities and their updates, along with keeping our campus safe. Brian will also be working closely with students to bring out the best in them by assisting them academically, as well as, behaviorally. We are very excited to have him on board.

Denise Kent- I think it is a true testament to the teachers that we hire from within. Both Brian and Julie were former teachers and I think it’s important that we continue to stay faithful to hiring administrators internally, who understand our program, understand the fidelity that is important to our success. Thank you (to the Board) for recognizing the importance of that.

Finance Updates – Bill Francis

Our fiscal year has come to a close as of June 30th. We do have preliminary numbers, which show we will be ahead of our budget. This is a testament to our campuses that we have been able to stay within our budget, which will lead us to a positive outcome for a financial standpoint. Preliminary are looking positive as we go through our numbers in the coming months. Our outstanding debt as you may recall was 5.7 million dollars and as part of what was recommended, we received feedback from the board members, which was to pay the debt down using our cash reserves to make a payment of 3 million dollars. This brings our current loan balance down to 2.7 million dollars from an original loan balance back in 2002, that of 11.5 million dollars. That’s a very good discipline from a financial standpoint to pay the loan off so quickly. What that means, if we continue to make our current payment and assume the interest stays at 4% or below, we will be able to pay the remaining balance on our loan down within the next 3-3.5 years. This gives us great financial flexibility particularly with maintenance on buildings needing significant renovations and other needs that may arise.

Adjournment

No further questions – Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm