

# FRANKLIN ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE: September 10, 2018**

**TIME: 5:00**

**LOCATION: Board meeting via “ZOOM”**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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. 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**

Our focus for this quarter was on managing our student workload, meaningful use of technology in the classroom, along with a high teacher/student engagement in the classroom. Student surveys were sent to our student population to get an idea of how things were going in comparison to last year in terms of workload. Homework continues to be a struggle for some of our students. With this in mind, we spoke with our department heads directly to put some measures in place to help with the student workload and find ways that we can really make the work they are completing meaningful and not overly burdensome. We acknowledge that our students have a wide range of interests and activities outside the school day, which we want to balance and encourage for a well-rounded student. We are also rapping up our second round of observations with a strong focus on improving teacher/student engagement. In particular, we are looking closely at teacher directed questioning, along with maximizing overall engagement with students. Finally, rounding out the quarter with a focus on academic integrity and technology. Technology always poses interesting challenges for us with personal technology, such as cellphones and iPad use. Our main focus here is to be sure students are using school issued technology appropriately, and that it helps engage them and it enhances their learning while limiting their personal device use so that we are better able to authenticate the work they turn in is theirs and not shared between students. We have made great headway with the assistance of Colby York, our IT manager. Our teachers are also moving towards a more practical implementation by using the iPad as a tool and not necessarily all we do in the classroom.

*Question: Bill Francis – Who brought up the issue of homework? Was there feedback from parents, teachers, students?...  
MaryJo Sullivan – A survey was sent to the students to get their input on what was and wasn't working. I have also spoken to parents with concerns as well. The goal is simply to identify if there is a particular subject, or course level (standard, honors, or AP) causing the burden. Also, to assess if students notice the changes already made. The results were that they did! We will continue to fine tune and make adjustments where needed.*

#### **FA 1-4 Elementary/Middle School – Denise Kent**

At the K-8 grades, we have also been wrapping up brief observations as well as, formal observations and a whole round of coaching. We are looking to implement more direct instruction coaching at the middle school.

*Julie Garrett (6-8) – The middle school is trying several new initiatives. Our Falcons High Fliers Club is a club recognizing the best of the best in three categories; academic performance, athletic performance, and in Luddy Outcomes. Each nine weeks three students are chosen based on nominations from teachers, coaches and staff. Students are recognized with a party along with parents and board members are notified of the achievement. We are also working on bridging our home communities and school communities. First, we held our annual Mixer after school, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Second, was our Family Mixer, enjoyed by all.*

The National Honor Society and groups of teachers sponsored this event. We had great activities too. Rocketry in particular used launchers based on a NASA design shooting into the air. Many exciting activities were shared.

*Amy Daniels (3-5)* – Last year, we administered the IReady assessment for ELA to all students grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Based on the results, the teachers thought this data was very helpful in designing their instruction. This year we began the year in administering the IReady assessment in both Math and ELA to all students, grades 3 through 8. This is an adaptive assessment that identifies individual student strengths and weaknesses, along with measuring growth. These assessments give teachers additional data to complement classroom-based assessments and assist in making informed instructional decisions. These assessments are given three times per year, either through the iPad or the computer. This year the State is requiring the Science EOG to be taken on the computer or iPads as well. Due to the student's familiarity in taking IReady Assessment in a similar way, should prove advantageous to our students.

*Melissa Lloyd (K-2)* – IReady will also be administered mid-year for our second graders making the transition to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade easier for teachers to have that data. As for updates to the facilities, the playground is now complete. Parents have been very pleased and have given positive feedback with the way it has been upgraded. We have had a significant amount of grading and have installed turf. There is brickwork in the front of the building that is very pretty. Brandon Hafner and Beth Hood will be working on the building's bathrooms this track out. I want to thank everyone that had a hand in beautifying and updating our campus.

### **IOWA Results – Denise Kent**

(Denise shared a worksheet containing the IOWA scores) This year we administered the IOWAs to grades K-8 grades on the third week of school. This year we completed a new version of the IOWAs. This was the most updated version of the ITBS test. If we look at the results we can see that in the category of English, Language Arts, (Reading, vocabulary, grammar mechanics, and Math) our students are growing about one year and 2 months for every academic year. This is great news considering students are only in school for 10 months of the year, but getting 14 months of growth. Overall, our student growth was one year and six months or eighteen months within a 10-month instructional period. I think that these results are a testament to all our teachers for what they do from Kindergarten through high school.

### **Finance Updates – Bill Francis**

Our budget for the 2018-19 school year is based on our state funding and our state funding is based on our average daily membership for the first twenty days of school. The good news is that due to the hard work of our administrators keeping enrollment numbers up, is that our actual enrollment exceeded our projected enrollment. This will have a slight positive impact on our overall budget this year. Lastly, our wrap up from the previous year ended favorably, which was inline with our expectations and within budget. We have now begun this year's audit process and expect to have it completed and submitted by early November.

### **Adjournment**

No further questions – Meeting adjourned at 5:18pm