

Franklin Academy Meeting Minutes August 11, 2016

Meeting comes to order all board members were present. The board reviewed the previous meeting minutes. Judy Nunnenkamp asked to change “April 2015” to “April 2025” in the meeting meetings. Amended and Al Merritt motioned for approval of the minutes. Motioned passed.

Financial Update – Bill Francis

We have closed our fiscal year 2016 as of June 30th. Our revenues did exceed our expenditures. The numbers we have now are un audited and we are starting the audited soon as required by DPI. Bachelor Tillery and Roberts will perform our audit and have already sent information regarding the process. Mr. Francis reported since our last meeting our debt is that the debt is now under 7.2 million. Since 2010 issued bonds, we have paid down over 3 million dollars in debt and the low interest rates have helped. If interest rates increase, this may increase the time that we discussed before that our debt will be paid in full.

Campus Upgrade – David Mahaley

David Mahaley reported that the high school upgrades in landscaping are complete. A new sign was placed out front, new sod and removing dead limbs, trees, etc cleaned out the tree line. The only remaining work to be done is between the neighborhood and the soccer field.

K-8 Testing – Denise Kent

Not released to public yet- School Grade B, same as last year. Some dips in average performance in math and reading. Science increased to 92 % proficiency. All third graders met Read To Achieve standard and passed 3rd grade. FA met all 27 AMO targets (annual measureable objectives). Data shows a trend of huge increases as child move from 3-7th grade. Is this do to all systems clicking? Learning how to take a test? What? Bob asked if it is related to the test. Kent responded that it could be, studies show that by taking the test again, you become more familiar with how to take the test. Mr. Luddy, what holds us back from getting an “A”? Kent says FA is measured averaging all grades, K-12, where other schools are measures by K-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9 – 12. This gives many measures to meet. No questions from the board.

High School Testing – David Mahaley

Mahaley stated to the board that the ACT Test scores for our school have not been released to public however our students who took the ACT scored an average of 23.5 for a total score by 11th graders. North Carolina average is 19.1. On a total score of 36 is significant and our students scored really well compared to the state’s average. Over 4 years, our score has 1.8 and the state has improved slightly. Students are graded by “college ready” for each subjects. 44% met all four and the state is only 18%. This matches up with other tests we give and we are continuing to grow and improve. Mr. Luddy, “do you know Wake County’s scores?” We do not know, they are not posted. Mr. Luddy asked if we could give them at the next meeting.

Enrollment – Denise Kent

145 teachers, 10 new teachers. 1138 510 1648 students we are serving this year. Merritt – is this enrollment maxed out? Yes, we have 22 – 26 students per class over the K-8 grades.

DPI Update

FA recently was asked to participate in the pilot of the Online Performance Framework. FA was one of 10 schools selected to do this. The Performance Framework is a means for DPI to audit schools remotely. Items reviewed were Conflict of Interest Policy, Nepotism Policy, copies of recent health and fire inspections, lottery applications, Certificates of Insurance and Occupancy, Admissions policy, Criminal Background Records policy, Grievance Procedure, Board of Directors Information and meeting schedule and information pertaining to the public posting of test scores on our website. FA rec’d a hand written letter of appreciation from DPI for doing this.

Charter School Update – Office of Charter Schools Newsletter recognized Franklin Academy as being the third best school district in North Carolina. This is based on the Niche website that polls parents, teachers and the public reviews, graduation rates, testing scores, etc.

#2 Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy

#3 Franklin Academy
#4 Woods Charter
#5 Lincoln Charter
#6 Pine Lake Prep
#7 Union Academy
#14 Community School of Davidson
#32 River Mill
#37 Gaston Prep
#43 East Wake Academy
#56 Voyager
#97 Queens Grant

Luddy mentioned that half of the top ten were charter school's Eddens asked where the school's were located ? Kent replied that the closest that we can be compared to is East Wake Academy. They started the school around the time we did and they are K-12. We now have five graduates that now work for us. That is testament of our product and parents see that.

Update on Charters in the Area

There are currently 167 Charter Schools in NC. The local area charter schools include;

- Wake Forest Charter K-7 will be K-8 (NHA school)...board is looking to go K-12
- Endeavor K-8 (Started by 3 career public school teachers- focus on arts)
- Envision K-8 will be K-8 (Project based learning)...moving into new building Oak Grove Church Rd- 2017
- Youngsville Academy K-3 will be K-5 (DI school)...looking to go K-12

2017 Approved Schools:

28 apps for charters submitted this year- 8 rec'd approval to open for 2017.

- Discovery Charter School - Durham County
- Emereau: Bladen - Bladen County
- Johnston Charter Academy - Johnston County
- Montcross Charter Academy - Gaston County
- Movement School - Mecklenburg County
- Rolesville Charter Academy - Wake County (NHA school)
- Twin City High School - Forsyth County
- UpRoar Leadership Academy - Mecklenburg County

Question for Board – Franklin Academy would like to make a public statement regarding Franklin Academy and it's program to differentiate from other charter schools. Often we receive calls reporting that other charter schools our claiming to be our "sister" schools. Mr. Luddy asked to put something together for the board to approve at a later date.

K-8 Stretch Goals

Kent reported the Stretch Goals K-8- main focus students' academic and character development

- Admin to lead by example
- More unannounced observations
- Implementing interventions that are researched based quickly and documenting progress
- Regular DI Coaching with focus
- Positive behavior reinforcement with class dojo 3-5
- Holding all students accountable
- Encouraging and providing more ways for parents to be involved at school
- Improve the implementation of Saxon in MS grades
- Keeping the focus on Family through family-based events and activities throughout the year
- Highlighting students who exemplify the positive character we look to build in our students in

- grade K-8
- Continue to focus on alignment of MS classes to ensure a cohesive 6-8 experience, which will lead the way for a strong HS start.

High School Goals – James Kornegay

There is a trend showing that students are not pursuing education for the “love” of learning. How can we develop the love of learning? Each department has set goals to engage the students in different ways that is related to real world situations. Talent Ed is use to evaluate our teachers on performance. This system gives them good accurate feedback that helps them improve. The system is much better than the standard DPI performance rating system. We are also holding training sessions over track out to help the teachers bring the best into the classroom.

Resolution for Board of Valedictorians

Policy Change Rationale and New Adopted Standards --

The state of NC adopted a new grading scale and GPA weighting policy that went into effect with the 2015-2016 school year. In order to fairly account for these grading differences while still recognizing superior achievement, a student’s GPA for Valedictorian consideration will be calculated based on the scale that was in effect during his/her 9th grade year. This will reflect consistency of achievement throughout the high school career. A weighted 4.7 GPA will continue to be the recognition indicator for the Class of 2017 and 2018. In addition, first semester averages for all senior year courses will be included in the final recognition of the Board of Valedictorians in January.

Beginning with the Class of 2019, a 4.4 weighted GPA will be the recognition indicator. (No rounding up)

This policy will only be for Franklin Academy’s determination of the Board of Valedictorians. Official transcripts will continue to always include a student’s actual calculated GPA and class rank based on current state standards.

Bob Luddy asked if this system was tested. Mahaley reported we sampled and tested and that is how we came to the calculations. Eddins motioned for approval and Al Merritt seconded. All approved.

Questions or Comments – None
Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.