



Athenian eAcademy

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Present: Dr. Amy Smith, Karen Ellingson, Matt Throckmorton, Gene Trombetti, Don Guyman

Absent: Brett Nielsen

Guests: Rebecca Strait, Kami Alvarez, Amber Anderson

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 4:49 pm by Dr. Amy Smith

1. Review of Minutes

- a. Amy moved for the approval of minutes with Don seconding the motion.

2. Review of Financials

- a. Rebecca Strait gave a report on financials
- b. 65 days of cash on hand
- c. Net income is \$78,072
- d. Current enrollment continues to climb; numbers are at 660 + students
- e. Monthly budget meetings with SpEd director and Distance Ed director
- f. UPEFS annual AFR report will be submitted by October 1. Land Trust Funding Report has been submitted.

3. CEO Report

- a. Matt reported that enrollment is well above trend, and staffing is stable. At the next board meeting we will have an open discussion about the probation letter and next steps in addressing that with the state.

4. Academic Director Report

- a. Kami shared the Acadience report from the beginning of the year. Kami shared that the state goal is for schools to be at 60% of students on or above benchmark. Last year, we were at 55%. The year before was approximately 35%, so we saw a 20% gain. Second grade has highest scores; the goal is to keep them there.
- b. Don questioned colors of the report, Kami answered saying red means well below benchmark, yellow means they are approaching benchmark, green means at benchmark, blue means above benchmark.
- c. Amy asked how does the pie chart compare to end of the year, Kami answered saying the beginning of the year test for first grade is different than end of

year because of the reading component, which makes it harder. Kami also said a small amount of students can make a big impact on the percentages.

5. Approve updated School Fees

a. Kami presented the school fees for after school clubs, which are there to cover the cost of equipment. Amy asked if they are a one-time fee parents pay at the beginning of the school year, Kami said yes. Matt explained we added those fees to be compliant with the state.

b. Don moved that the board vote on approving the fees and Amy seconded. The fees were approved with a unanimous vote.

6. Approval of Building Resolution

a. Matt presented a plan to purchase school property through a USDA loan, we are lease to purchase with our landlord, we can purchase after one year of occupation, if we don't purchase by the fifth year, the landlord can sell it. We are eligible for a loan for rural schools. Matt submitted the environmental documents, and has been working on the financial statements for each of the six properties. If purchased we don't have to pay property taxes, and we will be saving \$17,000/month.

b. Amy asked about the maintenance cost, Matt said it will remain the same due to our triple net lease, it means if we break it we buy it.

c. Amy moved that the board vote on approving the plan and Don seconded. The plan was approved with a unanimous vote.

7. Update on Turn Around

a. Kami reported the state only approved two consulting companies. Catapult only offers in-person or virtual coaching, and requires extra travel costs due to them being out of state. Kami doesn't feel what they are offering is worth the cost. For example, one virtual coaching session costs approximately \$1,700. Cheryl questioned why do we need a consulting company, Kami said it's under state law, but there is uncertainty whether it's required, Kami looked it up and said the law as of May 2019 says "you may pick a consulting company." Kami would like to write her own plan since using Catapult doesn't seem like a good use of tax payer money. Amy asked what are the next steps, Kami said if we accept money, it would mean that we admit to being in turn around. Kami has questioned state people to get an answer if the school has been misidentified, but hasn't gotten an answer. Kami questioned board if they want her to pursue questioning. Matt said we can present data we found and ask if we can use our own plan and be taken out of turn around, as well as if we can move forward without using the consulting companies. Kami will reach out to Rebecca Donaldson.

8. Update on Probation Letter

a. Kami reported that when she and Brett went to visit with the charter employees, the probation letter hadn't been updated until April. Many distance ed parents don't like their students to get tested. The distance ed director reached out and started talking to parents to help convince them to take it, but problems with

the testing program ruined momentum. Michael Clark, in charge of compliance, has been asking for testing plans for our distance education. Those have been submitted but have been found ineffective. Michael Clark has asked for additional information such as testing locations and kind of test to be included, which they have. Kami has a meeting next week with Maria to provide support.

9. Other items

a. Parts of probation letter include issues with board governance. There are many people who called in from various campuses who are interested in being on the board. Matt said there are bi-laws for new board members, and it wasn't going to be addressed at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm

Next Meeting: October 24th @ 4:30 pm