

Eddyville Charter School

Board of Directors
Minutes of Meeting

September 29, 2011

In attendance: Dick Krogg, Dana Scarborough, Larry Cook, Kristi Demaris, Spring Howard, Paul Schneidecker, Shyla Luckini, Patty Kinion, Jenny Demaris, Kevin McBride

Absent Board Members: Christie Turner

Administration: Pete Tuana, Sandi LaRoche, Sean Bedell, Ann Cook, Lisa Renfrow

Interested Parties:

Written Communication and Acknowledgments:

The Board was presented with a building usage application from Landmark Baptist Church. Spring Howard made a motion to approve, Jenny Demaris seconded, all in favor.

Reading of Minutes:

Minutes were presented for approval. Larry Cook made a motion to approve, Dick Krogg seconded, motion passed.

Financial Report:

The financial report was read by Board members present. Patty Kinion made a motion to approve Check #'s 14427-14449, Larry Cook seconded motion, all approve.

Attendance Reports:

ECS currently has an enrollment of 220 students and when compared to other schools in the district shows the most growth. Enrollment is on target and has put ECS in a closed enrollment status for grades 1-8 with a few openings left in kindergarten and the upper grades 9-12. Jenny Demaris stated that Pete Tuana's strong commitment and leadership model, with the support of the Board, made a significant difference in increasing enrollment and promoting ECS in a positive manner.

Administrative Report:

Personnel Contracts for all 10 month employees and Coach Schneidecker's standard coaching contract were presented to the Board for approval. The contracts reflected the 2% increase. Jenny Demaris made a motion to approve, Larry Cook seconded the motion, approved.

The financial report was read by the Board members present. Ann Cook explained the report was based on an enrollment of 180 students and that the \$61,000 carryover could either go up or down. Kevin McBride inquired about what impact the present economy played in changes to our budget and if we were going to look at paying down our obligation to LCSD. Pete Tuana explained that we will follow the budget presented and not pay down at this time. At mid-year we will revisit our budget plan and see if we are in a position to do so. Mr. Tuana further explained the grant money for the bleachers was not included in the discretionary items. Mr. Tuana felt we should be solvent this year and be in solid shape financially.

Sean Bedell presented the Positive Behavior Support program being used by the elementary this year. The three main goals are: clear expectations in the different locations of the school, reward positive behaviors, and track and correct negative behaviors. Students have the opportunity to earn positive behavior tickets for displaying safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors to be later traded in for small prizes. High school students have been involved in setting up the prize cart and redeeming tickets for prizes.

The growth in enrollment is nice, but our school culture has changed. A large number of our new students are underachieving and bring some behavior issues. Behaviors are being targeted and closely monitored. Teachers are collaborating and working on strategies to improve school climate and promote positive behavior.

We have more middle school students than we anticipated, creating large class sizes and a need for more elective classes. Two more elective classes will be offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students next quarter,

Sandi LaRoche reported her students enrolled at OCCC were busy pursuing a variety of projects while waiting for college classes to begin and on their days in between classes. Projects included: planning Back to School Night, a Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled in December, a canned food drive currently in progress, painting the locker room, researching a small business plan, foreign language, nutrition research, and career exploration. Mrs. LaRoche noted the students were working enthusiastically and independently on their projects.

After two days of classes at OCCC, Sandi LaRoche reported students were settling in and feeling confident about college.

Junior, Mercedes Howard thanked the Board for the opportunity to take classes at OCCC. She told the Board that all the students really like their teachers and feel like they are getting an idea of what college is going to be like. OCCC staff were very welcoming, not intimidating, and helped everyone feel at ease.

Senior, Haley Preston told the Board she thought the students were really going to enjoy the college experience. She stated that she was intimidated about the thought of college, but not now. She expressed her thanks to the Board and to Mr. Tuana for making this

experience possible. Mr. Tuana complimented Sandi LaRoche on her ability to coach, mentor, and guide our students in this amazing program.

Eddyville Charter met AYP for 2010/2011 as a school. The Math scores were low. Mr. Tuana will present data showing a decline in scores over the last five years.

Landon Lightle has continued to take ownership of the building and grounds, fine tuning and creating a safe, clean campus for students. He is not only a hard worker, but works with children positively.

Jenny Demaris inquired about last year's 9th graders and how they were doing this school year. Mr. Tuana reported that significant progress as well as growth was made.

Committee Reports:

Old Business:

Busing

Spring Howard asked about the Harlan bus picking up students who stay after school for sports practices, academic support, or other planned activities and providing transportation to Toledo. Mr. Tuana said it was a matter of coordinating with Mid Columbia and coming up with a workable drop off location for parents to meet students.

Spring Howard inquired about the bullying and what was being done to address the problem.

Mr. Tuana explained the PBS program presented earlier by Sean Bedell was one measure being taken to promote positive behavior and that he was working with LCSD to get extra support. Behavior incidents are being addressed and dealt with appropriately.

Jenny Demaris was curious how behaviors are tracked and recorded. Mr. Tuana and Sandi LaRoche are tracking the behavior incidents through the SIS program. Debby Rariden, Morgan Kilduff, and Sonja Corcoran are also helping with tracking, monitoring and problem solving during elementary recess.

Patty Kinion expressed concern regarding students who witness behavior incidents and what is being done to help them process the incident. She thought a letter sent home notifying parents that an incident occurred and suggestions on how to talk with your child would be helpful.

Mr. Tuana is going to explore different curriculums available. "Be Kind," and "Don't Laugh at Me," are two programs discussed as possible resources. Kevin McBride felt in addition to the positive behavior programs, we should explore base culture and find resources to teach students how to be polite and courteous.

Dana Scarborough asked about the focus on High school and how the positive behavior program extends to them.

Dana Scarborough suggested presentations and or motivational speakers invited to present information to our students. Pete wants more conversation on this topic. (Keep this as an old business)

Patty Kinion asked Mr. Tuana if he would like to have a committee formed to address this concern.

Pete Tuana reinforced how important it is for children to feel safe and build a solid foundation. Pete invited Board members to come in and get involved.

Jenny Demaris was interested in knowing how incidents are debriefed when something does happen at Eddyville Charter.

New Business:

An amendment to Pete Tuana's salary was presented. Larry Cook made a motion to approve, Dana Scarborough seconded, all in favor.

Dana Scarborough is hearing that we are getting structured, but concerned that we are not adhering to the code of conduct agreement unless it is a serious incident. He would like to see stricter policies in place and holding our athletes to a higher standard.

Patty Kinion felt that we need to remove barriers and do everything possible to encourage students to participate in athletics and safe activities.

Kevin McBride suggested a committee be formed to revisit code of conduct, policies, and expectations for athletes and making them consistent,

Board members asked when the North West Charter School Conference was scheduled. Ann Cook stated she had not received any information to date. Patty Kinion felt it would be beneficial for the administration team to attend.

Regular Session ended with Board members and Pete Tuana staying for Executive Session.

