

MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FIAFW, INC.  
SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGH POINT ACADEMY – FORT WORTH

September 15, 2020 / 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the above referenced corporation was held on September 15, 2020 by video conference/teleconference in accordance with Governor Abbott's temporary suspension of Open Meeting Laws. Meeting was called to order by President Connie Barnett at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Connie Barnett, B.K. Myles, Pam Hartwell, Nate Starmer

QUORUM PRESENT:

Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katie P. Stellar, Dana Yates, Jana Tennyson, Allyson Solymosy, Heather Houpt, Craig Shreckengast, Alisha Yeager, Karen Emery, Jan Taylor, Shawn Tate, Michelle Noskin, Steve Skidmore, Ashley Wroth, Tresha Johnson, Meg Sanks, Arliana Richards, Rachel Lindsey, Eva Spudich, Madison Fuentes, Mandy Martin, Sacha Spoonemore, Ashley Ellis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Meg Sanks - Would like to have class sizes reevaluated.

RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Approved minutes - August 18, 2020 - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nate Starmer (Unanimously Approved).

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Updates and Discussion of the following:

RECOGNITIONS:

No recognitions at this meeting.

REPORTS:

- **Allyson Solymosy** – Survey results: 631 out of 718 responses received, but some were duplicates. We started making phone calls for the rest. As it stands, we will have 68.1% in person and 31.9%

continuing with distance learning, it's about 3-1. We have about a full class size per grade level that will be distance learning. It looks like we will be able to do 4 classes in person and assign a distance learning teacher. Before school started, we did a drive through meet the teacher and device distribution night, serving over 600 families that night. The rest of the devices were dropped off at students' homes, and families could come to the school on an appointment basis for parents to pick up devices. We are taping the hallways with directional arrows, posting social distancing reminders, closing every other sink and stall in restrooms, and have distributed supply bins to classroom teachers. We have a District Health Committee, we are working on identifying isolation rooms, and the process that we are going to follow if a child has symptoms, so that we can protect other students and teachers. We are looking at our morning and drop off procedures. We are working with Meg and the PTO to build classroom dividers for classroom tables. We know that one of the things we are going to have to look at is how to make up for Covid slide and Summer slide, so Kayce Roth, our RTI Coordinator is setting up some DRA reading testing and we are going to be able to test approximately 250 towards the end of August and beginning of September, to target those kids that need reading intervention. Beginning of the year assessments will be done in October, then we can identify those kids that need math intervention. I had invited the board to meet the new teacher group and our mentor mentee partnerships, more info to come after the October meeting.

· **Heather Houpt** – We are doing a lot of the same prep work as the other elementary campus. The tape on the walls, reminders to wash hands, and safety procedures. Drop off procedures, different people will be outside, classroom teachers will all be inside helping students. Our survey results for in-person and distance learners, we have received all but 17 responses back. It is looking like about 40-43% in person, depending on if those 17 students' responses. Exactly one half of the 6th grade students and kindergarten students will be split between the half doing distance learning and the half in person. Going to have a teacher assigned that will handle distance learning, contacting parents, and making sure the students that are doing distance learning are getting the same information as the students in person. Our theme for this year is Superheroes, and our teachers are superheroes. The situation is unideal, and teachers, parents, and students are all making the best of it. Looking at our engagement, we have about 96% actively engaging daily. We have some that are getting credit for attendance, but they are not completing all of their work. We have tutors and TA's reaching out to those families to make sure they know they have our support and getting them all the information they need. Our guided reading library we bought this year, we are using the BAS that came with it to see reading levels of the kids and know where to start and which small groups we need to go ahead and start with. Everyone has Hero Hour on their schedule, it's RTI time so that we can work on making up for the Covid and summer slides. It will be used for homework, enrichment time, GT, dyslexia, and intervention. Presented item b. Asynchronous Instruction Plan.

· **Craig Shreckengast** – We have settled into our 3rd week of distance learning. We have an environment that is very focused on student relationships, and not having kids to build those relationships with, it is hard for both kids and teachers. Surveys for MS/HS 75% in-person, 25% distance. Out of 450\* students, 4 have yet to respond. MS/HS is structured differently due to specialized teachers and classes. Online students are going to be spread throughout our classes. Every teacher is going on average at least 4 or 5 distance learning students. We are going to have smaller classes, spreading them out for social distancing, and we are going to build classroom dividers for class sizes that are a little bigger. We are working on getting procedures ready for isolation, social distancing, cleaning. Excited to have kids back on campus.

**Dana Yates** – With Covid, TEA added about 6 more submissions to our plans for this year, 1 is specifically for Charter schools, and the rest are reporting on who is on campus and not on campus. We had to rewrite our attendance manual to comply with TEA guidelines. For parents, it's not about kids being seen, it is about student engagement. My team is really working hard to work with teachers and get an accurate account of student engagement. Our attendance numbers run about two days late, we want to make sure that those kids that we didn't hear from those first few days of school weren't just technology issues. I will have more accurate data for the board next time we meet. Presented item c. Student Handbook Language.

**Katie Stellar** – Starting with the building report: I have been working to give updates as I have them. Just to reiterate what I posted on Facebook the other day: We do have our certificate of occupancy for our new building at 8300 West Freeway, so K-1 will be starting there on the 28th of September. We are currently awaiting approval from the City of White Settlement for additional construction inside the building. We have some plans for some spaces to be divided, some additional walls to be built. They had already removed some walls prior to the building permit because of the demo work they could do. I have posted some pictures on Facebook that are kind of basic. Inside of classrooms, all very similar from one to the other. The auditorium space, which will be a great multi-use benefit. There is a warming style kitchen, which I believe will help us once we are able to have a lunchroom in the auditorium space, a lot of potential for that. I also posted a picture of the recreation room, which will be a gym. We are waiting on the city to approve the building plans which will add a large space up front as a choir room, a large art room with a sink, and an additional room. At every corridor hallway, towards the classrooms there will be access doors with limited access which will create a very secure environment for our students. The modulars will be placed on that site and the civil engineer has been working to create plans for approval with the city for where to place those modulars on the property. I was sent 5 different options, three of those wouldn't work for us based on a proposed location of the modulars. I selected two, one is a first choice, the other as the second choice. I did run that by a couple of members of the leadership team this morning, then sent that over to the civil engineer with my suggestions. He is waiting on a report and once he gets that he will know which one will most likely work. On Thursday, we will have a kindergarten and first grade preview of the building. We are also going to walk K and 1st grade teachers through the building tomorrow. We are working hard to finish some details in the building, chalkboards hung, moving furniture, etc. We are looking into and taking bids on additional safety and security items. Among those, I have submitted a bid from someone today to the general contractor for security cameras and access control which would be the doors similar to what we have currently on both of our buildings. We are going to take bids for fencing, probably a combination of chain link fence and depending on affordability we will move from there with other options. We have been having weekly health service meetings - with our nurses and leadership team, discussing our needs as we work to address potential Covid cases or rather the symptoms that students may show once they are on-site. We feel like we are very well prepared for that. We as a team are really following the Healthy Start guide that we published back in August. We are increasing our internet capabilities on every campus to solve some of our issues with connectivity. For the 1256 Jim Wright Freeway campus a company will be coming to install a PA system on site connecting a, b, c, and d buildings. In the next 4 to 6 weeks we will have our sign out front of 1256 refreshed with new paint.

**Arliana Richards** – presented item a. Approval of Reading Instrument Waiver. TEA has required us to have specific reading assessments done for Kindergarten and seventh graders. We are able to

use both of the assessments that we are currently using with board approval, next year we would have to adopt one of the TEA's approved assessments for those grade levels.

- **Karen Emery (CSS)** – presented Financial Report - Motion made by Nate Starmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved).
- **Jana Tennyson** – presented item c. Approval of Title IX Guidelines and Employee Handbook

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

The following Corporate Actions were taken by appropriate motions duly made, seconded, and adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors entitled to vote (unless a higher voting approval is stated)

- a) Approval of Reading Instrument Waiver – Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nate Starmer (Unanimously Approved).
- b) Approval of Asynchronous Instruction Plan - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nate Starmer (Unanimously Approved).
- c) Approval of Title IX Guidelines and Employee Handbook - Motion made by Nate Starmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Hartwell (Unanimously Approved). Student Handbook Language - Motion made by Pam Hartwell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nate Starmer (Unanimously Approved).
- d) Discussion and Possible Action: Phase-in Onsite Learning for Elementary grade levels - No discussion needed.
- e) Executive Session (Personnel/Financial) – No Executive Session this meeting.
- f) Reconvene from Executive Session/Vote on items discussed in Executive Session – No Executive Session this meeting.
- g) Request(s) by Board Member(s) for item(s) to be placed on agenda for next board meeting – None at this time

#### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Nate Starmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Hartwell to adjourn meeting at 8:30 p.m. (Unanimously Approved).

#### **Adjournment Approved**

Minutes submitted and certified by President Connie Barnett

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Connie Barnett, Board President