Liberty Tech Charter School Board Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2018

Members in attendance: Mike Boylan, Andrea Ferguson, James Fiderio, Eric Ochsner, Doug Waldorf, Kenneth Hamner, Esther Goss, Joseph Starr

Principal Mike Stewart

Teacher representative: Melissa King

Meeting called to order: Eric motion, Doug second, approved unanimously

Melissa King is welcomed as teacher representative

Public comment: No public comment

Principal’s update:

August dashboard – any questions on report ? Eric congratulates Mike on MAP data – sixth grade class is an area of focus, would like to see student growth percentile numbers – more effective. Mike says we’ll have it in the winter – doesn’t go from year to year – look at May dashboard to see end of last year, each fall is the baseline. Strong test results in middle school math – very happy with 43 percent of 8th graders in top quartile – long time coming. We haven’t arrived, but we are trending in right direction.

Mrs. King is still adding, testing and evaluating about 28 lower school kids and 7 upper school kids for gifted.

EIP program – 65 kids placed in EIP – 1st percentile to 35th percentile score, goal is that they don’t stay in program – or recognize they need more special education support. Doug asks how kids are re-evaluated – progress monitoring along the way, but winter MAP testing is the formal evaluation time.

Infractions – Eric asks how many are related to 6th grade class? – 80-85 percent – when you can’t do the work, misbehave to take attention away from not being able to do the work. Eric asks how we will know if we are making progress – disciplinary infractions decreasing and not seeing academic gaps widen – see some academic improvement. Andrea asks about engaging parents to help the students as well – math tutorial is not entirely driven by us, bringing parents in, especially for kids who need the support (Math Morning), Ms Christy is also looping in parents with Early Intervention – here’s where we need you to focus with your student – online platforms, classrooms, (IXL MobiMath, etc).

Fall MAP results – 19 of 26 categories perform better rate, top quartile, strong performance – 22 of 25 perform better than national norm, Grade 1-3 numbers, large percentage of kids in top quartile, great opportunity kids with us from young age and can stay with us – challenge for staff to meet differentiated needs, adjust instructional practices – good problem to have.

School Improvement Plan – Taken from Milestone and MAP data – Goal 1 – highest CCRPI of all state commissioned charter schools and a CCRPI score of 90 or higher – we can do it, stretch goal, may take a few years. Strategies - address current sixth grade of students, address eighth grade performance on Math Milestones.

Goal 2 – Outperform the national norm on NWEA Measures of Academic Progress – strategies include increasing percentage of students performing in top quartile to greater than 25 percent in all subject and grade levels (gifted program, differentiated learning, workshop model) and decrease percentage of students performing in bottom quartile to less than 25 percent in all subject and grade levels (differentiated learning, EIP, workshop, math tutorial), more than 50 percent of students will meet individual growth on MAP assessment (reading, language, math) in each subject and grade level – school will average 65 percent of students meeting individual growth goal on MAP (Workshop model, growth conferences with students, progress reports, IXL online support learning outside of school)

Eric likes the plan – having people responsible – concrete – Mike says we could be highest CCRP of all state charter commission this year – Doug would like timeline on some of these – ones that are achievable this year

SACS Accreditation – eligible this year – top accreditation agency – lengthy process – standards handed out – as log as readiness diagnostics didn’t have red flags, we could do it this year – spring time – now member of AdvancEd network, going to conference in October in Atlanta with some staff – readiness diagnostic in December – schedule for late spring – shoot for next year if not ready – 3 day evaluation – go through entire school – classroom observation, cold call parents, half the staff working on STEAM certification (3 year process), other half work on SACS accreditation. Eric asks what specific deliverables are - Not just bragging rights (though it is a big deal – meeting caliber) makes our transcript worth something – if we ever add high school, necessary – if kids leave here to go to elite private school for high school, could jeopardize their acceptance – Mike knows of 2 that are SACS accredited (Coweta Charter, Museum School). Does help us get perspective – reflective – see where we achieve and where opportunities are. Prevents tunnel vision – school district looks at many schools, we only look at this one. Doug asks if we can balance these things on a tight timeline – Mike says we have good record keeping systems – have since beginning – knew we would go for SACS when eligible. We have three years of documented data. Melissa thinks SACS will help us with STEAM certification –

PTO – Last minute cancellation, nothing pressing

Board vision, wording and goals from special called meeting - Eric asks for Mike’s weigh-in – Vision statement – Building south Atlanta’s (innovative/premier) school of choice. Mike says it should cast type of school you want to be and type of family you want it to resonate with. Statement is too broad – we’re not trying to be everyone’s school – what are you providing that’s different – take away is we’re not there yet.

Specific goals for board for this year – CCRPI scores (school already adopting), different board goals - Pre-K, Middle School Math, Family contributions and donations – Eric fan of us taking on Pre-K – Mike agrees – it would be a big win. Eric adds high school readiness as a goal – separate into teams to satisfy both goals – High school readiness – academic committee should spearhead – Pre-K – development, finance, governance – Application for Pre-K due in March – lottery for student positions at same time – we’d run a separate Pre-K lottery - Eric says end of November and early December – is a fish or cut bait time – Mike wonders how long the response time is before you are an approved Pre-K, we still need to be ready to apply in March, we may miss a cycle – Joe says we need to talk with SCSC – Eric says we talked to them and they are onboard – could effect CSP grant availability - won’t effect our CSP grant, but could effect federal grants – after CSP, we’re not eligible for a lot ( innovation not federal, federal grants are more facilities and this isn’t our facility – we don’t typically go for federal grants anyway). Eric says it is worth exploring and answering questions – Doug thinks there is a lot of aggressive things going on – may need to prioritize – Mike says question of sustainability – Families are excited about Pre-K, huge academically, Doug says we can start working on it, but timeline needs to be adjusted. Eric – if we knock some of the things off this year and answer questions – we can be very ready for March 2020 – Parents will see tangible evidence of working towards it (different playground, fencing).

Goals for board – starting path to Pre-K, high school preparedness, board support SACS, STEAM, Andrea adds funding resources – after CSP, what’s next? Mike – we have to address meaningful fundraising – we need to be able to provide some extras – innovative, outside the box events and activities. We can operate out of state funds – but to be ambitious goals and accomplishments – there’s got to be things that differentiate – more and more costs money. Family participation is good goal – they don’t understand the need - $100,000 a year – field trips and innovative activities – scale has changed since the beginning because we can operate from operating budget – we need to get families and community understand. Mrs. King says there is misunderstanding that because we are in Fayette County we have resources – we don’t get SPLOST, Eric – school has to be soecial at all level – teacher, staff, student and family. We’re trying to build something special –Andrea – Liberty Tech is a community –

Academic committee –

Doug and Eric now Academic committee – started pre-evaluation for Leaks evaluation – recommend 6 p.m. on board meeting night – but data will be old –

**ACTION- Eric and Doug will work on finding better date for fresher data to board before meeting**

Governance

Taking photos at 6 p.m. before next board meeting, Starr’s Mill – questions for bio

**ACTION – All board members – fill out bio, red polo, dark pants for photo**

SCSC training – November is the one we decided on – we would all like to go together – Mike asks if he should attend – he’ll stay here because comoing after holiday

ACTION – All board members sign up for training –

Development

Updating strategic plan on new web site – reflect new vision statement when we have it

Golf fundraiser still looking for teams, hole sponsors – extra flyers. Creating a page on school web site – post and share on Facebook

Go on The Bear to talk about golf fundraiser and annual fund –

Put flyers around community – Mrs. King will put flyers at Dwarf House this Wednesday.

Put on the Life in PTC Bubble –

Campaign - slime Mr. Stewart – 41 percent participation through last week – extend to end of the month – earn a free dress day for upper school top participation and lunch in turtle sanctuary for lower school – when your homeroom gets 100 percent – you get it –

More advertising and marketing – Twitter, Instragram – who will manage it – tie in posts already doing –

Finance – Esther – Focus past week was audit – entries are in, $1,000,000 liability - common to report pension liability -

Looking into changing banks – will discuss with Mike at next meeting –

**Motion – Eric makes motion - Esther Goss, Amy Jones and Mike Stewart have signatory powers and are authorized to explore and establish a new bank account, Ken seconds, approved unanimously.**

Esther talking with Board of Education about renewing lease.

**Minutes of August meeting: Eric makes motion, Doug seconds, approved unanimously.**

Minutes of special called meeting: Table to read through updated minutes –

**Eric makes motion to move to executive session – Andrea seconds, approved unanimously**

**Eric Motion to reconvene – Esther second – approved unanimous**

**Eric Motion to adjourn 8:51 p.m. – Doug second – approved unanimous**