Liberty Tech Board Meeting

Monday, October 8, 2018

Directors present: Andrea Ferguson, Michael Boylan, Kenneth Hamner, Eric Ochsner, Esther Goss, James Fiderio, Joe Starr

Directors absent: Doug Waldorf

Non-voting members: Principal Mike Stewart, Teacher representative Melissa King

Meeting called to order: 7:05 p.m., Eric motion, Kenneth second, passed unanimously

Motion to amend agenda to add summer camp and investment account discussion - Eric motion, Andrea second, passed unanimously

Public comment: None

Principals report: Eric questions about jump on dashboard - Golf tournament added to fundraising, gifted students will be scored soon, funds coming in next round, Eric said daily attendance looked good.

Two committees launched - SACS and Steam Accreditation - Eric says some of the gaps appeared to be board communication with teachers - Teachers don’t know board members and role - would like board member (s) to give teachers update at staff meeting. Do the guided visits more, more board presence. Mrs. King on STEAM committee - talking to staff member, putting a name with a face. Wear name tag, wear shirt when you are at events. They want to know their work is being seen by more than the Principal.

Staff meetings are 1st and third Tuesday, 4 to 5:30 p.m., board presence would be good. Maybe one member from each committee to rotate to give different perspectives.

PLC structures - change format, use some more beneficial protocols. Eric had questions about diagnostics - Mike needing time for his own development - plan to overcome challenge? Not at the moment. Mike is going to SACS conference, but no other plan. Eric asks to bring something back to November meeting - mentor, conference, training that would be helpful. Mike says he has used mentors a lot - casual basis, need to have something more concrete.

CSP Update - No questions - third of the way through.

School recruiting process heating up - tours are filling up. Please help spread the word. Should we advertise in the paper - board says yes. We need a better effort to spread word in other counties (Coweta, Spalding make sense, but Spalding is right down road. Clayton tough area to work in - system denounced charters.). Ken says Facebook targets ads to specific locations and demographics. Make a landing page for marketing, specific to area.

**(Action item - Mike B. write stories for Griffin Daily News - tours, lottery, photos of cool school, students from area)**

Open enrollment period - Jan. 8-Feb. 8, lottery Feb. 15. We are two months ahead and ready to go. If lottery were tomorrow, we could do it.

FTE sign off tomorrow - work through last two errors - what they said to fix, we have it right in our student information system - we have call in to DOE. CPI will sign off tomorrow - free of errors. Student class is free of errors.

CCRPI scores due this week -

Share two student stories -

Got new student last week, middle school, challenges in academic past, been retained, after his first day last week, dropped sister on bus stop - he was ready to go by time she was back. He had never wanted to go to school - Mom said he told her it was because teachers cared about him. Sometimes we make important difference in student’s lives.

⅞ students make it a place where everyone can play - address puddles, fix equipment, still not open to all - wasn’t ready for handicapped student - found a swing for wheelchair bound student, got it installed, he was able to swing and participate for first time here. He was extremely excited. Super proud of students - they saw a problem and solved it. (Action - Mike B. share Facebook post with newspapers.

PTO Update - Eric - Oct. 26 Grandparent’s day, new spirit wear available at exhibition night, link to Liberty Tech Facebook page for Veterans Day, need volunteers for Grandparent’s Day and Fall Festival - Nov. 3

Academic Committee update: - Eric has draft of LKES accreditation - looks acceptable to Mike Stewart, they have access to shared folders. One of our visitors/potential board member - Rosalyn - is interested in joining academic committee, phone call based committee meetings for two members and she can be in the building, She has been through SACS Accreditation.

Governance Committee Update: Summer Camp/School discussion - Benefits, costs? Declining number in enrollment and attendance after enrolling. Financial standpoint - utility bills when camp is in vs. not in is about $1,900 difference. That’s two field trips. Other cost is materials - we still make it hands on, project based, creative - materials come out of supplies for school - do extra order to get through camp - $2,000. Teachers offers written to include one week of summer camp - won’t affect salary any, but we are at or below Fayette County and they don’t do week of summer camp - it makes it more comparable. Melissa King asked about supplies - this summer we either didn’t have all the materials or didn’t have budget to purchase more. Melissa King said she ended up spending money out of her pocket to supplement. Eric - by the numbers - year or year, 16 percent decline in enrollment - serving 13 percent of families, 60 percent of that number only attend the whole way through. Benefit small portion of school - can we reallocate money to benefit all of the school. Mike Stewart talks about summer slide - happens every year on average, two years of camp, summer slide is still there. We had hoped to prevent it - hadn’t really helped - three weeks, not well attended - not enough. Eric said we need to keep high quality teachers and not having to have an additional week (camp) would help. Vote at the end.

Andrea updates - Instagram account and Twitter account - Kenneth has linked to web site - when we post something to web site - all four places. Getting some good attention, just need to keep it up. Updated board form on web site to join board. Photos today for board, most bios turned in. Board signed up for SCSC training, November is it - please make this one.

Mandated reporter training - make sure you’ve done it.

Development Committee Update: James discussed board involvement at school events, passed around sign up sheet tonight - push annual fund for rest of the year - discussed some grants, Andrea has seen some on SCSC newsletter, teachers needing help on grants - don’t want to duplicate efforts. Andrea keeping a spreadsheet - everyone can see what’s going on. **(Action - Andrea will share spreadsheet with Melissa King).** 7 teams at golf tournament, different groups from last year, met some interesting people, shared info, 14 companies donated prizes, sponsored holes, got good ideas, sent a survey out. James has some parents interested in joining golf committee.

Finance Committee Update: Esther says we are on par with budget, discussed finding new banking institution, Wells Fargo and Heritage Bank - looking at different options, need Amy’s two cents, on-line banking, no fees, Mike Stewart feels worth mentioning taking on TRS liability affected our ratios - instead of exceeding, we are just meeting. Asking SCSC feedback - wasn’t in audit in past, have been told it is common, need to do more digging. Deidre is leaving, job description need edits,

Items requiring a vote:

Eric makes motion to approve September minutes, esther second, approved unanimously

Eric makes motion to allow establishment of investment account for donation of securities, andrea second, approved unanimously, James abstains.

Eric makes motion to do not have summer camp at Liberty Tech going forward, Kenneth seconds, approved unanimously.

Eric makes a motion to recognize Joseph Starr’s efforts on the board at this his last meeting. Mike Stewart makes comment - Joe became President when we needed someone to step up, personal thank you, not an easy time for him to take it on - sincerely appreciate his work and his selfless service to school. - Mike B. seconds. Passes unanimously

Eric makes motion to amend agenda to vote on board officers, Esther seconds, approved unanimously.

Eric makes a motion to approve Kenneth as vice chair. Esther seconds, approved unanimously.

Esther makes a motion to approve Eric as chair, Kenneth seconds, passes unanimously.

Eric makes a motion to go into executive session, Kenneth seconds, passes unanimously

Executive Session:

Motion to return from executive session, Kenneth second, approved unanimously

Motion to adjourn meeting, Kenneth second, approved unanimously

Adjourns 8:35 p.m.