Liberty Tech Board Meeting

Monday. Dec. 10, 2018

Members present: Eric Ochsner, Mike Boylan, Andrea Foster, James Fiderio, Esther Goss, Doug Waldorf, Kenneth Hamner

Also present: Principal Mike Stewart, Teacher representative Melissa King, PTO representative Celeste McGee

Call to order: 7:04, Eric motion, Kenny second, approved unanimously

PTO Update: Celeste

* Earned 20 tickets to Disney World - will decide whether auction or raffle
* Come back January 8 - Starlite Spirit Night - that Friday - really need help to push it.
* Maverick Run - Jan. 26 - Hot Cocoa 5K  - flyers sent home - T-shirt cut off date Jan. 8
* Art to Remember raised $329
* Fine Arts Winter Extravaganza - $313 raised.
* Will do bake sales during exhibition nights (Alice in Wonderland theme - going to News Crew t-shirts)
* Yearbook ordering starts tomorrow

Open items:

* Board training - Doug and James going in February
* Background Checks - Mike B. Gatekeeper on who’s current, who’s not. **(Action - Check with Amy on who needs what?)**
* Mandated Reporter Training - Mike B. and Doug Waldorf need it.
* Pre-K - Kenny leading sub-committee - met Saturday, Dec. 8 - Do we feel like we can get everything done  - meet deadline of March 2019 - Ask for Mike Stewart weigh -in as he needs to have 40 hour training - board assumes responsibility for all else. Extremely big project, haven’t seen us (board) execute project of this size - worry about getting too deep and not being able to find way out. It’s a short period of time. Ken asks if obstacles will be same if we give more time - No, not dealing with STEAM lab renovation, panel installation, dealing with holiday, CSP grant, AdvancedEd, lottery, and we’ve only left three months to get it planned and done. We need it, would like it for year after next, it separates us in several ways, makes my job easier. Boils down to what you think you can accomplish in three months. Eric says only reason we wouldn’t do it is because we’re afraid of work we will put in over those three months. I’d feel better if we ran at it and didn’t quite make it and got close to goal rather than just giving ourselves 15 months. We’re better off if we start  (fence, find out financial obstacles, etc.) Esther asks about ROI run it as separate entity - two different companies - insurances separate, licensing, bank accounts, two separate charters, does it have to have audit )that’s $20-$30K) and if county is OK if we have Pre-K. Doug is supportive of taking steps forward - if this does not meet this criteria, be able to walk away (financial…) Eric - if it is negative impact financially on school, I’d want to wait - if financially neutral - OK to go forward. Andrea says based on Saturday - we should go forward to do our due diligence. Eric wants specific deliverables if we decide to put off decision - we’ll understand the audit question, window question, Innovation Grant (once we’ve received it, can we apply or will application reneg it?)

**Action - Esther find out about audit, Eric - find out about windows (Bright Start), Andrea find out about Innovation grant (Gov. Office of student achievement) Email answers and thoughts by end of the week.**

Principal’s Update: Mike Stewart

* Dashboard and notes on dashboard - any questions - No.
* Eric - Congratulations on Coweta Fayette EMC.
* Cash balance high because we had to cancel money transfer - cancellation deposited last month and will come out this month.
* Discipline - big spike in October, few more in November - just stupid stuff (middle school student brought sugar in bag, pretended it was drugs).
* Interactive panel installation - Jan. 3 and 4 - train staff on Jan. 7 - teacher work day.
* MAP testing underway - going quite well - 1 to 1 chromebooks has made administration much easier. Goal for March is to have everyone at the same time - cut testing in half if everyone at same time.
* Getting some data - majority of reading - Right around 57 or 58 have met growth goal - higher than national average. Math 55 percent have met growth goal - only halfway through math testing - haven’t started language usage yet.
* 6th grade - 21 receive support - they aren’t growing and rotating subs has not been effective. Highest need students being served with lowest consistency. 4th grade math not great, no surprise, catching up with new teacher. 1st grade reading did not grow this round - surprising, behind on guided reading.
* Commission monitoring letter - no findings - adverse practices (hearing officer training, purchase authorization form needs to be written by Amy, staff member or teacher and Mike just approves), some suggestions, send in corrective action plan in January - revised policy manual to vote on in January - amendment of policy needs to be voted on. Hearing officer training - $375 for one session, need clarity, any options? We have a fully developed SPED manual - few edits to make. Need board to complete compliance review process - log for when to do that.

**ACTION - Board - Compliance Review Process and Amendment to Policy for January**

* Lab renovation purchase order in - put us on spring break week - back from spring break, labs fully functional. Ribbon cutting - last Saturday of spring break week. Eric asks if board can help open school after first day of spring break.
* Eric asks about TKES - Mike did all elementary and specials - Donna - upper and special education - will switch in second half - seen as good as instruction as seen in school building - more differentiation than in any other round of observations - individual groups get instruction tailored to needs at higher rate than he has seen. Well managed classrooms, engaging lessons, a lot of rigor. Lesson planning needs work. Assessment uses is another opportunity - confusion around standards based grade book and grading system.

Academic Committee: Eric

This Friday, on-site work for Mike Stewart formative evaluation. Have it in and reviewed before break. Board continued to be encouraged to attend Mike’s classroom evaluations. Tool to evaluate Mike’s judgment. Does not have to be a formalized schedule. If we come, he will take us to a classroom.

Governance Committee: Eric

Any questions regarding updates to bylaws - No - summary, one document, clean up names, address, discuss term limits (kept three year terms in bylaws - no one longer than six years), Andrea asked about parent representative and teacher representative - one year instead of two years - nothing says can’t be same person next year. Changed definition of quorum - not two third majority, now simple majority (what it is for committees) and teleconference are no longer acceptable. Can call in if simple majority exists and caller is out of jurisdiction or medical reason. Ken recommended that there will be an annual meeting, no specific month.

Finance Committee: Esther

* Revenue and expenses slightly under budget
* Summary of finances in folder
* More personally involved, Esther will look over and spot check some things (bank recs)
* One candidate for Deidre position - will pursue after holidays

Development Committee: James

* Met Saturday after Pre-K meeting, went over recent events, Vendors and raffles with PTO made around $700 at fine arts night.
* Discussed doing movie night for community - make money off food, community event.

**Action: Mike B write-up for local papers - playground, lottery nights.**

Items requiring a vote:

November minutes - Eric motions to approve November minutes, Esther second, approved unanimously.

Updated bylaws - Eric motions to approve amended bylaws, faculty and parent rep one year term, Andrea second, approved unanimously.

Motion to go into Executive session: Eric motions to move to executive session 8:21 p.m., James second, approved unanimously

Motion to adjourn - 8:49 p.m. - Eric makes motion, Doug second, approved unanimously