Liberty Tech Board Meeting

Monday. Jan. 14, 2019

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: 7:05 p.m., Eric motion, Esther second, approved unanimously

PTO Update: Celeste

Chick fil A Friday this Friday,

Hot Chocolate 5K Jan. 26, looking for volunteers 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m., gym open for awards/bathroom - hot cocoa at end,

Feb. - Exhibition Night bake sale and drinks, help with Tea Party area, spirit wear, clothing closet

Valentine’s Day messages and flowers - orders first week of February

BoxTops wrote first check - $500 - distribute among teachers for classrooms

Open items:

Board training - James and Doug need to sign up for February.

Pre-K  - Auditing - included in fees already paid, separate books good idea though. Not need to pay $15-$20K for audit - Windows - price for protective film - $1,500 to $1,600 for four windows in classroom - Kenny will clarify if it is just windows or door windows too. It is just the windows in the classroom. Timeline - Bright from the Start - application is done in January - Jan. 29 for this year. They do require that you have to start August of year you apply. One of us has to attend mandatory pre-training meeting - Kenny will attend - they have it every month - state will inspect our facilities - once they say we’re adequate facility, we can apply. Playground work still needs to be done and windows need to be done before state comes to inspect.

**Action: Eric will send around draft of Policies on corrective action plan  - ratify in Feb. meeting.**

**Action: Mike will find out who needs what - background check and mandatory reporting - this week and send out alerts.**

Principal’s Report: Mike Stewart

MAP testing - Three goals in improvement plan - every grade 50 percent, school wide 65 percent - doing fairly well, but not at goal right now.

56 in reading, 59 math, 60 language - can get to 65 by end of year - realistic. 50 percent all grades realistic too, but 6th grade will be a challenge. First grade behind too.

25 percent or more in 80th percentile - blue on chart - green is national norm. Lot of high achieving students here. Need highest achievers to grow - lowest and middle kids are growing, but highest students aren’t growing as much - whittling away at it - Focusing on individual differentiation - put gifted strategies in classrooms -

Student growth summary report more detailed - breakdown of growth - Kindergarten growing at high rate over national norm in math, same as second grade, similar for 5th and 7th. Reading - every grade outside of 6th, higher than national rank - for winter scores - Language also very good - 6th grade low again.

What does it mean - opportunities to get better in first grade (guided reading and math will make a difference, 4th grade new teacher is making difference, 6th grade is glaring hole - see 6th grade plan - supplement time just math and reading now, assigned students to teachers, work with 6th and 7th - one week all math, one week all reading, getting most out of teachers we have (Parks and Loveless) - next step if we don’t see growth - turn science and social studies into second English and Math classes. Got to get those before they can access social studies and science - Eric asks what about kids not struggling - Mike says not go gender based and go with who can still have science and social studies, and who needs to have extra reading and math. Some of the sixth graders are as many as four grades behind. Currently Parks and Loveless are doing history and science through reading comprehension lens.

Esther - what is innate issue? Students? Lost high performers to few different things - moving, promote some up a grade last year - Melissa says group was very unmotivated, they were ok with failing, they were my hardest group to teach in 20 years of teaching - battling being behind academically as well as motivation - to draw attention away from how far behind they are, they don’t do anything so you can’t see how bad it is. Think we’re making progress - some night and day difference, but long, slow crawl. Parents aren’t getting involved either - three of 25 attend meeting to discuss sixth grade issue. Resource setting working with some students, may change IEPs.

Huge margin of difference in different levels - get teachers to think about individual level - takes a lot of work. If we’re going to get the growth we want, especially at highest and lowest ends, reality is we need to get specific with students. Teachers are figuring it out, finding balance. Teachers like Thorne showing others how she does it.

These were our best results so far. Consistent. Trending in right direction. Spring performance is typically better than winter, so headed right way.

PE - Mike has had it - can’t take more injuries - latest broken hand, by PE teacher throwing ball in dodgeball. If I pull PE, pulling whole program - after school not beneficial for Generation InFocus, also lose STEAM teacher that kids love. Can’t do anything this school year - can do a few things. Alan Ewing - Footsoft program - owns after school company called Connect - putting in bid for PE and after school for next year. Would be a quality boost - but third third-party contract for PE - might be better to take on PE ourselves, but problem would be cost of apprx. $50K a year and then find an after school company. STEAM will be fine, but after school would be issue. 22-24 kids in after school, could grow with right program.

Academic Committee: Eric

Did an on-site visit, toured five different classrooms, met with 9 teachers for interviews, look at Mike’s performance - get understanding of what’s happening at school, different experience - left feeling very excited about what LT does on a daily basis. Teachers teaching four different lessons at once - Thorne tracked each student’s skill sets. Culture of school was wonderful - heard from teachers that love coming to work, collaborative atmosphere, spirit of innovation, ideas from rapid feedback put in practice, neat to see. Encourage board members to do the same. Seeing the product was motivating.

Governance Committee: Eric

Met briefly before meeting - updates - Executive Committee will vote in additional board member, board software looking to finalize recommendation by next board meeting, Pre-K already discussed.

Development Committee: James

Meeting right before race on Jan. 26.

Andrea - need people to help with Hot Chocolate Run Jan. 26

Chick fil A spirit night on Jan. 29 - Starr’s Mill

Exhibition Night on Feb. 8

Lottery - Feb. 15

Black History Event - Feb. 15 morning

Movie Night - Spring - April 15

Alice Musical - May 3 and 4 - Generate revenue for fine arts program

8th grade Bridging - May 23 - New Hope Baptist North Student Center -

State of the School - Usually in March - Opportunity for board members to address frameworks - operational presentation -

Teacher Grant Task Force - Melissa - calling all grant writers - split off into pairs, writing three grants.

Mike - Speaking of grants - Innovation does not impact federal funding.

Finance Committee: Esther

Looked over all ratios - reviewed budget - on target - ratios are better now that we don’t have to include pension - error has been corrected, for November - we met expectations for scoring with commission - challenge of how to meet - convenient for finance person at school as well as Esther - kick around ideas - board members can still meet in person and conference in Deidre (yes, if you have quorum). Eric asks about reimbursements about training - Esther has tried to follow up - have not seen a form - we have to put things together and one person (Esther) submits whole thing.

Items requiring a vote -

December minutes, Eric motion, Ken, second, Approved unanimously.

Motion for executive session to discuss board staffing - 8:23 p.m., Esther second, approved unamimously.

Motion to adjourn - Eric,, Ken second, approved unanimously. 8:42 p.m.