Liberty Tech Charter School Board Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2019

Members in attendance: Mike Boylan, Andrea Ferguson, Todd Levin, Kenneth Hamner, Eric Ochsner, Esther Goss, Principal Mike Stewart, Teacher Representative Melissa King

Members absent:

Call to order: 7:05 a.m., Eric motions, Andrea seconds, approved unanimously

Eric welcomes Todd

No public comment

PTO update - submitted - Starlite Spirit Night March 22, March 25-29 Teacher Appreciation

Review open action items

Pre-K - Kenneth - Been in touch with Bright from the Start a few times, goal to develop to do list - they make it difficult. Some former requirements, no longer requirements - such as pre-meeting for board member. There will be webinars. Application period changed to January - open for three weeks. Their advice is to keep checking the web site - hard to navigate. We can still do a to-do list but information is changing. Best bet is to do as much as we can. They are helpful when you call.

Mike Stewart said he and Ms. Freeman are working with group to donate construction projects. They have asked them for fence. Only thing inside fence is playground and play area.

Mandated Reporter - We’re up to date.

Getting Esther added to bank account - Just let us know when she can go with Mike and Amy - we will meet her there - during school day. Should be able to happen in next few weeks. Synovus by Gingercake.

Andrea - Look into training for new and exited board members - Talked to Rennie - when they send it in June - look for number of board members and training - just vote to accept resignation and then with Doug mention that we would have removed him prior to resignation for missing meetings.

Andrea motions that we accept James Fiderio’s email as resignation letter, Eric seconds, approved unanimously.

Andrea motions that Doug Waldorf missed maximum number of board meetings and would have been removed at February board meeting, prior to his resignation. Eric seconds, approved unanimously.

Principal’s Update - Mike Stewart

11 counties now - added student from Lamar - 415 students FTE (our max is 420). Stopped enrollment process for remainder of year.

Added another GAA student (Georgia Alternative Assessment) - can’t take Milestones due to disability. Puts us at 1 percent threshold, over that we have to be audited by state. We’ve never qualified anybody for GAA, so we’re in clear.

Gifted - number we tested vs. number that qualified - if we have seats, take those on cusp. They’ve been going for two weeks - Melissa - going well - changed the dynamics the first week. Kids coming in are very excited. Benefits us academically, not financially.

Honor roll - 3.5 GPA for upper school - more challenging. Students with failing grades are in EIP.

Financial - cash balance inflated because reimbursements from CSP are coming in in one month and disbursements going out in one month. Reimbursement coming in before check clears, there is a lag between funding in and expense going out - $200K lag.

Eric asks what we have left - $230K, but $200K for labs is coming next month. 30K left - printer in every classroom. $11K router for IT. $5K for audit at end of the CSP grant. We will be expensed out by end of the month. By May, everything will be up to date.

CSP update - Science lab equipment here - only tables been assembled so far. By end of March, lab spaces completed. Modular sofas for media center - padded wall for gym, PE equipment for gym, printers, middle school tables and chairs still on the way. Move desks out this summer, put new furniture in after. Ribbon cutting as part of May exhibition night - students can demo how they use it.

State of the School  - Pre-K update on agenda for Kenneth, Eric to do Governance committee, Esther can give high level finance update (tell this part of story - we’ve gone from $100 in account to over $900K). Andrea will give development update. Program will last an hour. Suit and tie - dress code for board.

AdvancEd accreditation on hold - they are changing process and they want us to do new process. It will be better for us. They will still do an on-site visit and give feedback. One day instead of two. Classroom visits, but operational stuff gets sent to them instead.

Student running track event - wants to run with our jersey - what is our liability for that? **(Action - Mike Stewart will call Greg and ask about it).** We support his desire to run with his school jersey.

Milestones handout - schedule for after spring break.

Academics - No update

Governance - Board software update? Andrea followed it up with Mike after - like a big Google Drive - it is just organizing. Mike  - doesn’t seem like it’s the best way to spend $1,500 - can be more beneficial for school. Not seeing value without the demo. IXL costs half of that - all students can use wherever, whenever. Esther - if board wants it, we should raise money for it. Eric, it’s like sharepoint site, we can probably do it cheaper. If it’s free to try, we should demo it. It’s $1,500 annually. Is it $1,500 a year easier? Todd says he’ll check it out and see if he can find some alternative.

Andrea went to teacher’s staff meeting last week - retraining of volunteer process - update compliance log - pick policy each month to retrain on. For April meeting, see what’s on monitoring visit - Eric thinks that changes to cash policy - makes sure teachers understand - as something for us to validate - does staff understand. May skip staff meeting in April because of spring break and Milestones. Esther may just come in random day.

Andrea did observation of classrooms - four middle school teachers - encourage board to find time to do that - pick a couple classes. Just send Mike an email and he can set it up.

Development - Andrea

Main thing - movie night - April 13 - 6 to 8 p.m. - Light refreshments keep it simple - open to community - catchy theme - thank you to our families and community, we need to request money - Todd will check out school projector - We need to request $350 to buy candy, drinks, butcher paper, Issue 7 of newspaper tomorrow - 5th graders can announce. Mike says we need to submit purchase authorization order and have Amy purchase it. No vote needed.

Golf tournament - Aug. 24, Saturday, before college football season - 2 p.m. start time - Whitewater - good with date, start with agreement - $250 to hold date - they deduct from total fees at end. Add sponsor a team as level of sponsorship (firefighter, police officer, first responder).

Finance - Esther -

We added $158,000 in fixed assets in January. That was all equipment that we see here. Ratios have improved - asset to income and asset to debt - looking really great. Numbers improving. We have new accountant - been here right around a month. Deidre stepping back but will still be around until after audit. Act more as 1099 contract employee - consultant.

Eric makes motion to approve February minutes, Kenneth seconds, approved unanimously.

Motion to go into executive session - 8:12 p.m. - Eric, Kenneth seconds, approved unanimously.

Motion to return from executive session - 8:55 p.m. - Eric, Kenneth seconds, approved unanimously

Eric asks about teacher pay salary schedule - have we settled on plan - Mike’s opinion is adopt Fayette County plan - Eric asks what cost impact is - It would save us money on new people coming in as bachelor’s  - current bachelor’s and masters - leave them where they are - wouldn’t have to come in with steps until later - Masters level - we’re close and big number of our teachers have Masters. Two tracks - hired before and hired after - not big deal from expense stand point. Eventually it rectifies itself. OK with leaving Bachelors where we are and Masters and Specialists - commensurate, Like idea of winter bonus for people coming back - pay in December - three measurements (two metrics for growth and one culture - MAPS, Milestone and TeKS) you get $500 each. Announce for starting next year. And what for non-teaching staff.

Motion to adjourn - 9:16 p.m., Eric,  Mike B seconds, approved unanimously