Liberty Tech Charter School Board Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2019

Board members present: Eric Ochsner, Andrea Ferguson, Kenneth Hamner, Michael Boylan, Esther Goss

Board members absent: Todd Levin

Guests: Celesta McGee (PTO),

Called to order: 7:01 p.m.

Town Hall: Update on Principal Search - Aligned on a process, find the right person - not a person. Four rounds - had 10 applicants, did a phone screening, identified four candidates for on-site interviews - panel interview and then an educational development lesson to faculty. Board interviews after that as final round. Options could be new principal, interim principal, or internal candidates to handle duties. Feel good about participation from families, staff, teachers, etc. Great to have many voices participating.

Public comment:

Adam Wilson - Four children attending this school, bigger than any one person - no threat to school’s existence. Express gratitude to volunteers to help keep things running. Why are we looking for a new principal? How did we get here?

Mike Stewart says came here from Museum School - first experience with project based learning - as assistant principal. Long term goal was to run a school. They knew they would lose him to run a school. They prepared me for this position and to expand this model - which I’m very passionate about. The Museum School was awarded a grant from state charter school association to expand, especially to lower income communities. The school reached out to me to run this program - has the experience. Right guy, right time. Best candidate. Great opportunity to expand something I’m passionate about.

Principal’s Report:

April Dashboard - Not a lot of changes since last time -

Staff retention is 91 percent. Considerably higher than SCSC expected rate of 80 percent.

Revenue outpaced budget and expenses underpaced  budget - $1,000,000 cash balance, 89 days of cash - we still have significant expenses from CSP grant, so it is a little inflated. Should be $700K mark.

Biggest news - most Milestone results in - Really good results - significantly better than any year in past - Our pass rates outperformed last year’s state in all 16 areas.

We’re seeing the growth that was missing last year which affected CCRPI scores - our interventions worked.

We’re just above daily attendance rate - should get CCRPI points this year

Esther asks about getting data on infractions by grade - report available to board on Infinite Campus.

Eric says congratulations to staff on great Milestones scores.

Andrea asks if we can get fundraising broken out on next dashboard.

Health of the School

SCSC gives us report card - academic, financial and operational performance on their report card - 1st year - 2 green and one red / last year all green - don’t have the report card yet - we get it next school year, but we’ll go through info they use to give you idea where we are.

Academic performance - Good in outperforming state (ahead 16 of 16) and Level III and Level IV (ahead 13 of 16) in Milestones. Also coming off strongest performance MAP data. Sixth grade highlighted - lowest group in terms of growth in January - significant progress in reading and math in second half of school year. Kindergarten is consistently high too. Middle school as group - no red areas this year - lot of green and blue. We’ll get green - got it with lesser performance in past.

Financial performance - We exceed in asset to liability ratio - we don’t carry a lot of liabilities - unrestricted days cash we exceed rate - we should be in meets range as that number will change with CSP expenses. No loans, efficiency margin is good. Debt to asset ratio is fantastic. We should get 95 of 100 points.

Operations performance - Met 17 of 19 metrics in winter - two were pending - voting to amend fiscal policy and disciplinary policy - minor changes - we’ll meet 19 of 19 standards at that point.

We’re in incredibly healthy position. Strongest we’ve ever been at end of school year. That’s been result of intentional and meticulous work.  Sets us up for years down the road.

FY 20 Budget Proposal

Healthiest budget proposal in three years

Charter schools getting more funding - QBE funding 4.4 million dollars - that’s higher than this year’s QBE and CSP grant. Significant funding increase. Title II and IDEA are just estimates - don’t expect a lot of changes, $4.45 million funding next year - significantly better - after SCSC fee 4.3 million -

Personnel biggest expense - 76 part of our budget - this does include teacher retirement increase (another 3 percent) increase in teachers salaries to be commensurate to Fayette County pay scale.

Put $1,000 into each grade for field trips next year as part of instructional expenses. $2,000 additional each semester for exhibition night - shouldn’t have to have teachers pay out of pocket. More money into fine arts components - they split $5,000 in past, each get $5,000 now. Important part of our school.

Services and supplies - PE/After School Program - STEAM now under our personnel - savings for us - Connect - will do PE and After School for $75,000 (half of what Generation InFocus did). Save money - better program.

Doing our own payroll - away from ADP - more savings (was $30,000 will go down to about $5,000).

Increases in services - phone and internet system going to Fiber, cleaning services - we ask him to do more and more, bring in roll offs a few times after exhibition nights - marketing budget increase from $0 to $2,000, student awards from $500 to $3,000, Bridging ceremony needs to grow. Athletics budget increase to pay for uniforms,

Facilities - locked in another 5 years of lease agreement - same as it has been - estimated increase of utilities expenses and raised grounds and building maintenance ($0 to $2,500 - touch-up paint, things not covered in agreement). Grounds is first impression of school - include shrub care, mulch, etc.

Depreciation - wise to depreciate our assets - things purchased in CSP grant and things we buy next year - Expense but really moving money to prepare.

$4.1 million expenses - leaves close to $250K net income.

Two options - reallocate expenses and knock number down a bit (don’t recommend)

Option 2 - leave it at $250K, go into cash reserves - go into exceed range for next year - (strong recommendation). Year 5 spend every dollar of QBE. Very healthy position.

Andrea ask about expenses for board events (golf tournament fee, events) would be cancelled out - Andrea will make a spreadsheet - Mike will get the actuals -

Budget does not project fundraising dollars - pretend they don’t exist - whatever we get allows us to do more.

Get any additions/recommendations this week, budget review and we vote.

Approval of April Minutes - Eric makes motion, Kenneth seconds, passes unanimously

Approval of updated policy manual - Eric motion, Kenneth second, passes unanimously

Approval of updated bylaws - Eric motion, Andrea second, passes unanimously

Motion to go into executive session - 8:07 p.m.

Question about survey about half days - We will make survey and put it in newsletter. Connect will have survey in next newsletter.

Motion to adjourn meeting - 9:05 p.m. - Eric makes motion, Kenneth seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Agenda for June 10 meeting

Call to Order - 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment

Academic Committee

Governance Committee

Development Committee

Finance Committee

Principal’s Update

Items requiring a vote

Executive session

Meeting adjourned