

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE ACADEMY AT MIDDLE FORK  
ADVISORY BOARD  
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Thursday September 10, 2020  
3.00pm  
Zoom online meeting**

CALL TO ORDER: The Academy at Middle Fork Advisory Board of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair on Thursday September 10, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. The meeting was conducted virtually on Zoom. It was determined that a quorum was present and the chair presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neva Specht  
Melba Spooner  
Cheryl Dickson  
M. Lee Barnes  
Denise Levy  
David Hostetler  
Woodrow Trathen  
Rebecca Jordan  
Lisa Gross

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sam Mills (Proxy for Angela Hairston)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robin Groce  
Tasha Hall-Powell  
Darron Daniels  
Amie Snow  
Aubry Dix  
Talana Bell  
Rebekah Saylor  
Vivid Oguntoyinbo

CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTICE: Chair Specht read the following statement:

“Under the State Government Ethics Act, all voting members of the Board have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts. Looking at the agenda for today’s meeting, does anyone know that you have a conflict of interest or an interest that would give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest? If so, please let me know now. [None reported.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: Chair Specht acknowledged the absence of board members Sam Mills (Proxy for Angela Hairston). Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for June 4, 2020 meeting were presented and upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes was approved.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: According to article 3 of the By-Laws, election for the Chair and Vice Chair has to be conducted annually. Dr. Denise Levy moved the motion and nominated Neva Specht to continue as the Chair, Dean Spooner nominated Denise Levy as the Vice Chair. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following nominations were unanimously approved by the board.

Dr. Neva Specht, **Chair**

Dr. Denise Levy, **Vice Chair**

REVIEW OF THE ACADEMIC CHALLENGES AND CURRENT CHALLENGES WITH REOPENING FOR FALL 2020

Dr. Robin Groce listed low attendance, no end of year assessments, learning how to use Schoology and online teaching in a short period of time as some of the challenges the Academy faced during the last school year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Current challenges with the fall reopening are:

- Providing technology and ongoing tech support to all students
- Communicating new schedules and expectations to all families
- Limited social and emotional support due to virtual school
- Online assessments
- Providing exceptional children services from evaluations to teaching
- Helping student navigate and embrace online learning environment
- Planning for a face-to-face/hybrid return while maintaining online instruction
- Maintaining enrollment and ensuring proper health and safety guidelines for student and staff upon returning to school.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR: The leadership team is working to overcome the challenges and set their goals for the coming year. They will continue to build and maintain the school culture by having open houses, quarterly family meeting, manage the online learning platform, continued professional development and academic growth for all students across subject areas. They will continue to work with the Winston Salem and Forsyth County School system (WSFCS) and provide optimal support for staff, the community, PTO and families.

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: The principal, Tasha Hall-Powell stated that the current enrollment is at 276. Attendance is checked at the beginning of class and reported in Power School. All staff returned virtually and planning to continue to develop online instruction. Each student received remote learning kit with class schedules and information for remote learning. They shared slides and talked about the current literacy activities and Schoology sessions.

The leadership team is working with the County School system for safe return back to school which will include wearing face masks, temperature checks, social distancing and breakfast in classrooms to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Talana Bell, the Chief Financial Officer at Appalachian State University gave the financial report of the Academy and stated the sources and projected amount from Federal and State funds. The financial report is available on the Academy's website.

POLICY UPDATE: Aubry Dix, Assistant general counsel at Appalachian State University gave updates on the recently approved Child and Individuals with Disabilities policy as well as the Sex-Based Misconduct policy.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion was made to go into closed session to answer questions and prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of North Carolina. During closed session, the following matters were discussed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the closed session was adjourned and open session was reconvened.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chair Specht proposed a change in date for the next meeting from Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 to Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 and for presentation materials and slides to be emailed to the Secretary at least 5 working days before meetings.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht expressed her gratitude to everyone for their participation and contribution. The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4.45pm.

DR NEVA SPECHT, Chair

By: -----

Vivid Oguntoyinbo  
Recording Secretary