

**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.

