

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

**Thursday December 12, 2019.  
3.00pm  
Academy at Middle Fork, Media Center**

CALL TO ORDER: The Academy at Middle Fork Advisory Board of Appalachian State University met at the call of the Chair on Thursday December 12, 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in the media center on the campus of The Academy at Middle Fork, Walkertown, North Carolina. Chair Neva Specht presided and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neva Specht  
Melba Spooner  
Lisa Gross  
Denise Levy  
Cheryl Dickson  
Woodrow Trathen  
Rebecca Jordan  
Mr. Rusty Hall (Proxy for  
Angela.P.Hairston)  
Superintendent of Winston Salem  
Forsyth County Schools.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Hostetler  
M. Lee Barnes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tasha Hall-Powell  
Darron Daniels  
Amie Snow  
Tracie McLemore Salinas  
Vivid Oguntoyinbo  
Aubry Dix  
Robin Groce

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 David Hostetler and Lee Barnes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for September 9, 2019 meeting were presented and approved.

THE PLACEMENT AND USE OF SCHOOL SPIRIT ROCK: Dr. Amie Snow provided information about plans to get a spirit rock for the academy that will be placed by the entrance of the school. The rock will be a donation from the local quarry and will be used as a fundraising and service project learning platform for the student council. Approval was granted by board members and the Winston Salem and Forsyth County School representative. Guidelines for use of the rock will be developed.

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM ACADEMY’S LEADERSHIP TEAM:

The leadership team gave updates on the plans to introduce Robotic training, collaborations, co-teaching, book club and English as a second language into class time for teachers and students. They agreed that this will help build teachers and students into leaders without overwhelming them.

Professional development for staff, utilizing restorative cycles to solve conflicts, finding more assertive ways to talk to students about positive approach to mistakes as well as giving back to the community is also being implemented

RESEARCH CLUSTER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE: Dr. Tracie Salinas, professor of Mathematical Science at the Appalachian State University whose focus is on rural areas talked about the Chancellors innovation grant for research and plans for a two-year self-study project through research clusters. The purpose of the project is to look at what makes the academy successful and how it can be replicated in other locations.

She acknowledged the concerns from the leadership team and assured that there was commitment of the research clusters to take the level of participation, the impact of the overall engagement on the students, teachers and administrative staff into consideration during the course of the project.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dr. Lisa Gross asked about the absence of a Vice principal and the impact on the administrative staff and students.

Dr. Robin Groce read the email from Lee Barnes and informed the board of his \$20000 donation to support reading at the Academy. Donation will be used to purchase books for each student from every visiting author at the spring book sale and during the school year.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht thanked everyone for their participation and wished everyone a Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year. The next advisory board meetings are scheduled for Thursday March 5, 2020 and June 4, 2020.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4.14pm.