

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

**Thursday March 4, 2021
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, March 4, 2021. 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 at 3.02 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neva Specht
Melba Spooner
Cheryl Dickson
Rusty Hall (Proxy for WSFCS Superintendent)
Denise Levy
David Hostetler
Woodrow Trathen
Rebecca Jordan
Lisa Gross

MEMBERS ABSENT:

M. Lee Barnes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hannah Reeder
Tasha Hall-Powell
Jesse J.Pratt (Instructional Supt. WSFCS)
Darron Daniels
Amie Snow
Romain Toussaint
Talana Bell
Tracie Salinas
Rebekah Saylor
Vivid Oguntoyinbo

Visitors: (Research Cluster)

Katy Strand, Appstate faculty
Jill Thomley, Appstate faculty
Mary Beth Searcy, Appstate faculty

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 member- Mr. Lee Barnes and introduced Toussaint Romain, Deputy General Counsel, who will be assisting the Academy on legal matters. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for December 2, 2020 meeting were presented and upon motion duly made by Board member Woodrow Trathen and seconded by Denise Levy, the minutes was approved.

UPDATE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR-: Dr. Hannah Reeder provided update on the Lab school initiatives and talked about the morning meetings, staff presentations, redefining and strengthening university partnerships with public schools and how to improve student outcomes. The Lab School qualifies for the comprehensive improvement grant, which will be used for human resources, professional development resources and materials. Part of the grant will be used to recruit an Instructional Coach for School improvement to help with Exceptional Children (EC), recruitment, enrollment, curriculum support, grant reporting and family engagement etc.

The Lab school initiative will also provide high quality teacher and principal training by providing leadership development, coaching, Math add-on license, Orton Gillingham training, summer leadership development program, etc.

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM ACADEMY'S LEADERSHIP TEAM: The leadership team gave an update on the recruitment and enrollment efforts and mentioned the plan for 4th and 5th grade to resume in person instruction for 4 days a week beginning from March 8th, while still offering virtual learning options for families. The team shared information, pictures and highlights from black history month, bridging community through morning meetings, HIKE, support and safety updates, reading literacy and mad about books, which was supported by board member Lee Barnes who donated money used to purchase books for the students.

Chancellor Everts attended their February 24 morning meeting and provided books authored by guest author-Kwame Alexander who presented them to students during the school wide literacy cast.

The leadership team provided updates on the at-risk intervention in partnership with Winston Salem and Forsyth County School (WSFCS) CARES team and Child Nutrition to provide remote learning sites, food for families, small group support, academic at-risk parent conferences, technology repair and replacement tech support. The enrichment program also provides homework support and tutoring support for students, in person summer enrichment and STEM activities.

They also plan to partner with Wake Forest Baptist Health and Novant health for community vaccination in due course.

The Academy welcomed Tanika Hawkins as the new Transportation and Testing Coordinator and elaborated on the Beginning Teacher (BT) support plan, training for BT mentors, coaching and observations for BT Professional development.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Talana Bell, the Chief Financial Officer for Academic Affairs thanked the leadership team for the good presentation and shared the financial report of the Academy through February 2021. She explained why the 13th month lease is included in the report and listed the sources of revenues including the grants, district and federal funding. The report is available on the Academy's webpage.

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE: Dr. Tracie Salinas gave an overview of the research cluster and commended the group for their hard work, which has yielded different benefits. The team is currently analyzing their research and hope to have recommendations by summer of 2021.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht expressed her gratitude to the leadership team, the board members and to everyone present for their participation and contribution. The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 3, 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4.40pm.

DR NEVA SPECHT, Chair

By: -----

Vivid Oguntoyinbo
Recording Secretary