

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

**Thursday June 4, 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 June 4, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. The meeting was conducted by use of a simultaneous communication (i.e., 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
Denise Levy
David Hostetler
Woodrow Trathen
Rebecca Jordan
Lisa Gross
Sam Mills (Proxy for Supt. Angela Hairston)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cheryl Dickson
M. Lee Barnes

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Rebekah Saylor

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 Lee Barnes and Cheryl Dickson. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absences was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for March 5, 2020 meeting were presented and upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes was approved.

UPDATE ON SUMMER ENROLLMENT FOR VIRTUAL READING CLINIC AND USE OF SCHOOLGY FOR REMOTE LEARNING:

Dr. Robin Groce confirmed that 40 students are enrolled in the summer virtual clinic and participate in one-on-one reading session. Graduate students from Appstate assists with supervision and the Academy’s students have adapted very well to using technology to participate in class activities. Virtual trips have taken place via zoom and Schoology, which is the online learning platform.

UPDATE ON CURRENT ENROLLMENT: Dr. Robin Groce stated that 285 students are currently enrolled at the Academy, which includes returning and new kindergarten students. The Academy is waiting for directions and working with the school district in their plans to reopen in the fall.

OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: The leadership team shared their slides with pictures and highlights from the talent show, social media platforms and their swift transition to online learning since the COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Snow explained and demonstrated how the Schoology online learning platform works and how teachers use the Schoology for student learning, daily interaction and classes.

To help in recruiting more students, the leadership team has scheduled activities and E-sessions with families, the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club. An enrollment information request form available in English and Spanish has been added to the web page. This will help interested parents contact the Academy and set up registration appointments.

The leadership team continues to have their weekly meeting, staff appreciation, virtual scavenger hunts and extended the use of devices through the summer so students can have access to devices and internet hotspot for the summer's virtual clinic. Donations have been received, which provided each 5th grader with a yearbook.

The Chair commended the Academy's administrators for the great work especially in the face of the global pandemic. Dean Spooner commended the leadership team in leading the Academy, the swift response and transition to virtual learning. She also complimented members of the State Board of Educators and those who care deeply and authentically in light of the recent protest in the Country.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Talana Bell, the Chief Financial Officer at Appalachian State University explained the financial state of the Academy and stated the sources of revenue, projected amount prior to COVID 19 and projected amount to finish the year. The financial report was provided to board members and is available on the Academy's website.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion was made to go into closed session to consider the qualification, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of a present employee, and to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. During closed session, the following matters were discussed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

OTHER BUSINESS- Dr. Sam Mills (Proxy for the Superintendent of Winston Salem and Forsyth County Schools) confirmed that background check and finger print has been completed.

Chair Specht proposed the following meeting dates for 2020-2021 academic year as Thursday September 10, 2020, December 3, 2020, March 4, 2021 and June 3, 2021 with 3pm start times.
The board members were invited to the 5th grade virtual graduation slated for 7pm.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht thanked the leadership team and everyone for their participation and contribution. The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 10, 2020.

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

DR. NEVA J. SPECHT, Chair

By: -----

Vivid Oguntoyinbo
Recording Secretary