

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

Thursday September 5, 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 and Chancellor on Thursday September 5, 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
Woodrow Trathen
Mr. Rusty Hall (Proxy for Angela P. Hairston) Superintendent of Winston Salem Forsyth County Schools)
Rebecca Jordan
M. Lee Barnes

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Hostetler
Cheryl Dickson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tasha Hall-Powell
Darrons Daniel
Amie Snow
Aubry Dix
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.]

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Chair Specht asked everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed new board members in person of Lee Barnes and Rebecca Jordan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: The Chair acknowledged the absence of board members David Hostetler and Cheryl Dickson. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- The Minutes from the previous meeting on May 22, 2019 meeting were presented and approved.

REMINDER OF THE PURPOSE OF THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD- Chair Specht read out the duties of the advisory board from the byLaws as a reminder.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: Chair Specht reminded the board members that according to article 3 of the by Laws, election for the position of Chair and Vice Chair has to be conducted annually. Dean Spooner moved the motion to open nomination of Neva Specht as the Chair, nominations for Vice Chair was made my Woody Trathen and seconded by Lisa Gross. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following nominations were unanimously approved as presented:

Dr. Neva Specht, Chair

Dr. Denise Levy, Vice Chair

Dean Spooner congratulated and appreciated the Chair and Vice Chair for taking up the responsibilities.

START-UP SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES FOR 2018-2019 – Principal Tasha Hall-Powell, Amie Snow, Director of Curriculum and instruction and Darron Daniel, Director of Student Affairs and Emergency management shared amazing success stories and some challenges for the past year. They shared information and pictures from the First academy summer reading clinic which was beneficial to both students and teachers in training. Darron Daniel gave update about the first week of school and the HIKERS (Honesty, Integrity, Kindness and Excellence) program where students meet at the assembly to discuss expectations and excellent behavior which encourages teamwork and cooperation among students.

Tasha Hall-Powell mentioned the major challenge that they have with the new Winston Salem and Forsyth School district School lunch database, which does not recognize student ID and marks them as withdrawn when they are in school. She stated that this is a cause for worry as it affects student headcount and ability to qualify for free breakfast and lunch but working on finding a solution.

SHARE OUT ON SUMMER PROGRAMMING: The leadership team shared pictures of the maker's space during the summer program where students made items such as paper boats, straw glasses, practiced sewing and using 3D pens. They plan to introduce the Lego robotics and hope the maker's space can be integrated into normal school days.

The NC Board approved scores from last year and there has been great improvement in proficiency and recorded academy growth.

Principal Hall mentioned that there is an improvement in the participation of parents at the PTO.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE- Principal Tasha Hall Powell confirm current enrollment at 282, which is a drop from 294 with some withdrawals due to transportation issues.

STAFFING AND STRUCTURAL UPDATE- Principal Tasha Hall-Powell shared information about the addition of four new staff and current professional development and team building activities.

PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT FROM APPSTATE CAMPUS- Dr. Robin Groce worked on a summary of participation which has increased between the students and staff from Appalachian State University and the Academy at Middle Fork.

CURRENT AND OTHER NEEDS-The Chair encouraged the leadership team to be vocal about any administrative needs that can be facilitated by board members. Principal Hall-Powell agreed that they need support in the counselling field with relation to mental health, anti-bullying campaign etc. Board members agreed that they can find a solution between the department of social work, psychology and counselling.

RESEARCH CLUSTER: Dean Melba and Chair Specht talked about setting up interdisciplinary research clusters with a proposal for funding from the Chancellors office to identify instructional academic practices and to develop a blue print of working data which can be replicated in main stream schools.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chair Specht reminded the new board members about the need to complete finger printing form and background checks.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht thanked everyone for their participation and contribution. The next advisory board meetings is scheduled for 3pm, December 12, 2019 and encouraged everyone to mark their calendar for advisory board meeting scheduled for March 5, 2020 and June 4th, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4.15pm

DR NEVA SPECHT, Chair

By:.....

Vivid Oguntoyinbo
Recording Secretary