

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

**Wednesday December 02, 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 Wednesday, December 2, 2020. 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 3.02pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neva Specht  
Melba Spooner  
M. Lee Barnes  
Rusty Hall (Proxy for WSFCS Superintendent)  
Denise Levy  
David Hostetler  
Woodrow Trathen  
Rebecca Jordan  
Lisa Gross

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cheryl Dickson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hannah Reeder  
Tasha Hall-Powell  
Darron Daniels  
Amie Snow  
Aubry Dix  
Talana Bell  
Rebekah Saylor  
Vivid Oguntoyinbo  
Tracie Salinas

Visitors: (Research Cluster)

Katy Strand, Appstate faculty  
Jill Thonley, Appstate faculty  
Caitlin Collin, graduate student  
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- Ms. Cheryl Dickson. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for September 10, 2020 meeting were presented and upon motion duly made by Board member Woodrow Trathen and seconded by Denise Levy, the minutes was approved.

REMINDER OF THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD: The Chair read the five main duties of the advisory board and reminded board members that they shall provide advice and guidance to the Chancellor regarding the operation of the Academy.

INTRODUCTION OF INTERIM DIRECTOR-: The Chair introduced *Dr. Hannah Reeder* as the interim Director. Dr. Reeder will be taking over the responsibilities of overseeing the work with the Academy.

UPDATE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR-: Dr. Hannah Reeder thanked the Chair and Dean Spooner for giving her the opportunity to serve the Academy and listed work that has been ongoing to support the Academy and reopen for the School year.

After considering Winston Salem and Forsyth County school reentry plan, examining the WSFCS COVID-19 data and looking at the student and family needs, a one week extension to resume on November 16<sup>th</sup> with a Hybrid model -2x3 cohort schedule with Virtual option was granted by the Chancellor. 60% of families opted for in-person instruction while 40% of families opted to continue remote instruction.

Resource guides like the hybrid schedules, technology, PPE, signage, cleaning, transportation, staff safety, parent communication, daily health check, CDC recommendation, HR Staff quarantine procedure was put in place to aid safe reopening. At resumption, 53% of families decided to continue with in-person instruction. Cohort A had an average of 81.8% and Cohort B had average of 92.6%.

Dr. Reeder listed some of the challenges faced at reopening and mentioned that the Academy is looking to hire a Testing & Transportation Coordinator, Increase Substitute Teachers Pool, and participate in Inclusive Excellence and Leadership Development. She thanked the Academy Staff and acknowledged the University wide effort that made reopening possible.

#### OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM ACADEMY'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

The leadership team has continued to work on their goals and on track with ensuring safe reentry and new hybrid schedules. They have continued with morning meetings, school updates, pledge of allegiance, Mountaineer pledge, games and monthly virtual sessions with educators across the state.

The Academy was awarded \$1600 from the SEL grant- Membership with NC SEL and equity grant and an additional \$2500 from the IABS for the Social Emotional Literacy Foundations (SELF) curriculum in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Polin, Dr. Debra Prykanowski and Dr. Christopher Van Loan.

The Academy leadership have continued to be part of a care team that meet to discuss and find additional resources and services that can be provided to student with special needs etc. The care team also provide assessments and support for the Academy students.

They plan to continue partnership with the community, increase awareness for marketing and recruiting efforts for the coming school year and has come up with a comprehensive improvement plan for the school year:

Goal 1: To increase reading proficiency of K-5 students, teacher training, summer programming for struggling students and continuous staff development.

Goal 2: Increase Math proficiency by 5% for all students K-5 based on EOG and check in assessment by the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Goal 3: Provide consistent instructional support for all students by maintaining a teacher and staff retention rate of at least 90% each academic year.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Talana Bell, the Chief Financial Officer for Academic Affairs gave the financial report of the Academy and stated the sources and projected dollar amounts from Federal and State funds. The financial report is available on the Academy's website.

RESEARCH CLUSTER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE: Dr. Tracie Salinas gave an overview of the researcher cluster and its aim of helping to determine what works within the lab school processes, its relationship with the community, teachers and the leadership. The research will also help to determine the impact of partnership, focus on students and the community needs. They propose to have final ideas by the spring semester.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dean Spooner thanked everyone for the wonderful job they are doing and encouraged the leadership team to document every feedback as it would help in moving forward and provide perspective to the system that is working.

Chair Specht reminded board members to send updated mailing addresses to the secretary.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: Chair Specht expressed her gratitude to everyone for their participation and contribution. The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 4, 2021 and June 3,2021 which will be the last meeting for the school year. She wished everyone a happy holiday and a wonderful New Year.

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

DR NEVA SPECHT, Chair



By: -----

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Vivid Oguntoyinbo  
Recording Secretary