

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

Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

3.00 p.m.

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 Wednesday March 20, 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
Nickolas A. Jordan
Melba Spooner
Lisa Gross
Denise Levy
Woodrow Trathen
Susan Branch
Cheryl Dickson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Hostetler
Mr. Rusty Hall (Proxy for Beverly Emory- Superintendent of Winston Salem Forsyth County Schools)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robin Groce
Jennifer Chrisohon
Tasha Hall-Powell
Verschello Nelson
Amie Snow
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.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: Chair Specht stated that member David Hostetler and Mr. Rusty Hall (proxy for the interim Superintendent of Winston Salem and Forsyth County Schools) absence was approved. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the absence was approved as presented.

Chair Specht stated that all recommendations from the last meeting was presented to the Chancellor and she approved the recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes for January 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

UPDATE ON BYLAWS: Jennifer Chrisohon, Associate General Counsel gave update on the bylaws and proposed revision to the rules of order article 3.6.3 and removal of appeals committee article 4.2. She stated that the changes were made to give the board more flexibility and to allow special rules, if needed, in the future.

Article 5-Amendment: The process of approving actual changes to the bylaws was also updated to give the Chancellor sole power to adopt, amend, restate or repeal the Bylaws and approved recommendations. The Chair will continue to take board recommendations to the Chancellor for approval.

UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP WITH WSFCS: Principal Tasha Hall-Powell informed board members about the change in leadership of the WSFCS. The Superintendent of the Winston Salem and Forsyth County Schools, Dr. Beverly Emory is taking another position and Dr. Kenneth Simington has been approved as the new interim Superintendent of WSFCS. There has been improved communication and conversations with the County School System about safety, student services and family support teams. The Academy has received more support with maintenance, approved signage and marquee from WSFCS. With the recent viral ‘momo’ internet scare going around in schools, they have had weekly meetings and the district has provided counselling support through school nurses and social workers trained on suicide prevention.

There has been no progress or update on the transportation issue. The district has no plan to expand magnet stops and the Academy is looking forward to a meeting with the director of transportation.

STUDENT DATA SHARING: Dr. Snow shared test data of 4th and 5th grade students. Data shows an overall increase on average from last year. The overall proficiency at grade level reading has also increased and the students have been engaged and excited about reading and learning. The leadership team at the Academy attributed this increase and positive energy in the School to the fact that students are practicing more, high quality of staff and teachers who are more dependable and take less mental health days, more interesting grade level material and more books available to students.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH HIGHLIGHTS: Assistant Principal Verschello Nelson shared PowerPoint presentation of highlights from black history month, work they did with students about inventions that makes life easier, research on HBCU schools and how kids are encouraged to go to college. A Radio host was invited to talk to the students about literacy and the importance of reading. She stated that parents are more engaged with the Academy and the new system now than ever before.

ENROLLMENT STATUS UPDATE: Principal Hall-Powell gave an update on the recruitment drive for Kindergarten and other grade levels. They have open tours for parents and plans to set up stands at the Children Museum, Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls club where they already have bus options and great partnership to help improve enrollment.

FIFTH GRADE TRANSITION UPDATE: Assistant principal Verschello Nelson shared information about options available to 5th graders and transition to Middle school or Magnet Schools. Reminders have been sent out and a visit was planned to Walkertown Middle School to give 5th graders a preview of Middle School.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE: Facebook and Twitter account has been reactivated and updated with current activities to engage parents and members of the community who are active on social media.

YEARBOOK UPDATE: Assistant Principal Verschello Nelson shared information about the year book front cover contest where they had 5th graders under guidance of the Art teacher draw a picture that would be used for the year book. The winning picture will be used as the year book cover while the 2nd and 3rd runner up will be printed on the back cover.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chair Specht proposed meeting dates for the 2019-2020 year as September 5th 2019, December 12th 2019, March 5th 2020 and June 4th 2020 with 3pm start times.

Assistant Principal Verschello Nelson and Robin Groce, Associate professor and director of planning and implementation discussed the testing schedule and plans to start with Reading. Dean Spooner asked about the expectations of proctors for the exams and possible participation of App State RCOE students as Proctors.

CLOSING REMARKS FROM CHAIR: Chair Specht thanked the leadership team of the Academy and everyone for their contributions and great job they are doing. The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for 3pm, May 22, 2019 at the Academy at Middle Fork media center.

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

DR NEVA SPECHT, Chair

By: -----

Vivid Oguntoyinbo
Recording Secretary