

ECU Community School Advisory Board
August 11, 2022
9:02 a.m. – 9:39 a.m.
Speight 203 and virtually on Teams

Presiding: Dr. Art Rouse, ECU Community School Advisory Board Chair

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Dr. Africa Hands, Dr. Elizabeth Hodge, Dr. Ethan Lenker, Mr. Robert Moore, and Dr. Alana Zambone

University Counsel in Attendance: C.J. Click

Guests in Attendance: Ms. Tracy Cole, Mr. Scott Gómez, Ms. Meagan Thornton, and Mr. Rick Yakubowski

Special Guests in Attendance: none

Board Members Absent from Meeting: Dr. Kristin Gehsmann, Dr. Chris Locklear, and Mr. Jeff Roberts

Call to Order: Dr. Art Rouse called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He thanked everyone for their participation, expressing gratitude for Ms. Cole's leadership and the strength of the relationship between ECU and Pitt County Schools (PCS) with Dr. Lenker.

Approval of the Minutes: Dr. Rouse called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Dr. Alana Zambone made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Kimberly Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Approval of the Agenda: Dr. Rouse asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Robert Moore made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Alana Zambone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Public Expression: None.

Updates to the Board

- A. Community School Operational Update: Dr. Rouse stated that Pitt County Schools is providing extra security at the entrance to the building. Dr. Lenker has had a new entryway installed so that visitors cannot enter the building until they have been allowed by someone inside the building. Dr. Rouse expressed his gratitude to Dr. Lenker for doing this. Ms. Tracy Cole added that the school is no longer eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision that provides breakfast and lunch at no cost to students. The Community School has shifted to the Free/Reduced/Pay status with nutrition. The school's social worker and counselor are working with families to complete lunch applications so that their children can have free meals. Ms. Cole thanked Dr. Lenker and noted that he was named Superintendent of the Year.
- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Cole noted that one contract was not renewed: Curriculum Director. There are several vacancies which are all still in the search process. It is difficult to find teachers. Currently, the following are still vacant: Curriculum Director, Nurse, Director of Integrated Health, Reading Specialist, First Grade Teacher, Fourth Grade Teacher, and the Special Education Teacher Assistant. Due to these vacancies, the school will combine the 1st grade classes with one teacher

and two assistants for those 25 students. The school is going to hire a long-term substitute to cover the 4th grade classroom. Dr. Ethan Lenker noted that Pitt County Schools is having the same problem with hiring teachers. The school system has had to combine lots of classes all over the district due to the many vacancies that cannot be filled. Dr. Rouse agreed that this is the worst he has ever seen. There are fewer students entering the teaching programs at ECU. Mr. Rick Yakubowski noted that his office has worked to get open classroom teacher and assistant positions put online so that Ms. Cole can always be searching and interviewing without having to wait for the Human Resources process, reducing the lag time in posting and finding new teachers.

- C. Finance Report: Mr. Yakubowski presented the finance report. The budget was developed and presented to the University in June. On the funding side of the budget, there is a projected 1.3 million in funding from State and Local ADM according to per pupil rates based on enrollment of 134 students. Federal grants from DPI are approximately \$205,000, which does not include ESSER funds. The UNC System base allocation is \$200,000. With the state budget passed last year, the UNC System received an additional one million dollars, giving them 4.5 million to distribute to the Lab Schools this year. However, there are now 9 Lab Schools in the system, as three have just opened this year. There will be additional funding, but it is not clear how much the base will increase. ECU Academic Affairs is providing a permanent allocation of \$155,552 for operational expenses. ECU has provided an additional \$431,000 to cover the expense budget, but the actual amount used will fluctuate according to what other funding is received. There is a new funding line to cover the legislative increase in salaries. This new funding line is \$74,000 to cover the 2.5% increase last year and the 3.5% increase this year. The College of Education provides approximately \$35,800 to help cover additional expenses. This amount could fluctuate depending upon the school's change in food status for students getting free or reduced meals. The budget currently contains \$2.5 million in expenses that will be covered by the expected \$2.4 million in funding. Dr. Zambone noted that fluctuations in personnel will help to cover this gap in the budget. Mr. Yakubowski agreed and stated that there will also be additional funding from the UNC System and the State ADM for enrollment. Dr. Rouse stated that he has discussed this budget with Academic Affairs and noted Mr. Yakubowski continues to work with Academic Affairs to help reduce financial pressures while still maintaining full support for instruction.
- D. Legal Report: Mr. C.J. Click presented a legal update. He noted that there have been changes made to the most recent appropriations bill that will necessitate new requirements. The Community School will have to provide discipline policies to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in October. The current policy covers most of the new requirements. Section 7.9 of the bill says that the school must provide assessment information to DPI in November. Mr. Click's office will work with Ms. Cole on these new requirements.
- E. Principal Report: Ms. Tracy Cole shared the Principal's Report. The extended school year ended June 30th for students, and the last day for staff was July 7th. One hundred percent of the scholars in grades 3-5 took the reading, math, and science End-of-Grade tests. The results are currently preliminary, as they have not been reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education. However, based on initial data, the Community School saw major increases in student proficiency in reading, math, and science compared to last year's scores. Enrollment is currently 137; the cap is 142. There are currently 4 students on waiting lists for grades that are already at capacity. The school can continue to enroll new students until September 20th. Ms. Cole expressed her gratitude for the excellent partnership with Pitt County Schools that continues to thrive. The ECU Staff Senate is conducting a supply drive for the Community School and for South Greenville Elementary.

The partnership with ECU Occupational Therapy continues, and the Community School is re-engaging with the ECU Dental School. The ECU College of Education Science Education Department is helping the school to plan a Family Science Night for the Fall. Beast Philanthropy continues to offer bi-weekly food distribution for the families at both the Community School and South Greenville Elementary. Greater Glory Ministries has purchased books for the students so that they can engage in a book study around texts written by Jacqueline Woodson, who is an African American writer. Her texts deal with real world scenarios that black children often face. The faculty and staff report on August 17th. There is an Open House on August 25th from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. to which members of the Advisory Board are invited. The first day for scholars will be August 29th. The Community School has a team heading to Cullowhee to attend the first Lab School Summit for the next 2 days with other Lab Schools from across the entire state. The Community School had three proposals accepted that will be presented at the Summit, which is the most of any Lab School in the state. Dr. Zambone commended Ms. Cole and her staff for the tremendous work they do, noting the well-organized distribution of books for Kids Read now. Dr. Anderson noted that the procedures were changed last Spring so that the books are now delivered directly to the Community School. She also thanked Ms. Cole and her staff for their hard work.

Discussion Items – None

Action Items – None

Closing Comments: Dr. Rouse asked if there were any closing comments. There were none. Dr. Rouse expressed additional thanks to all partnerships, especially with PCS. He also thanked the board members for their participation.

Dr. Rouse adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Next meeting: November 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Speight 203 and virtually on Teams