

ECU Community School Advisory Board
May 12, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 9:36 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. Kristin Gehsmann, Dr. Africa Hands, Dr. Elizabeth Hodge, Dr. Ethan Lenker, Dr. Chris Locklear, and Mr. Robert Moore

University Counsel in Attendance: Ms. Patrice Goldman and 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: Mr. Jeff Roberts and Dr. Alana Zambone

Call to Order: Dr. Art Rouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance. The quorum required for business to be conducted was established, so the meeting began.

Approval of the Minutes: Dr. Rouse called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Robert Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Elizabeth Hodge 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. Kimberly Anderson 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 would be doing abatement work in the South Greenville building during the summer. He and Ms. Tracy Cole were working with Pitt County Schools to ensure that the Community School could remain fully operational and undisturbed since students would be testing.
- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Cole noted that there are currently two vacancies: the first-grade teacher position that was never filled, and the IHC position that was vacated last week. There are three positions currently in the search committee process: reading specialist, nurse, and special education assistant.
- C. Finance Report: Mr. Rick Yakubowski presented the finance report. He explained that year-to-date funding is currently \$1,653,697 and year-to-date expenses are currently \$1,774,212. There is a variance, but it will be covered by the remaining funding allocations expected from DPI and local ADM. The school is projecting total expenses to be just over \$2.1 million which will be matched by the remaining funding allocations. The original budget projected expenses and revenue at

approximately \$2.2 million; however, this is due to a few positions that were never filled or were not filled until after the school year had started.

- D. Legal Report: Ms. Patrice Goldmon introduced a new attorney working in the University Counsel Office, C.J. Click, who might be asked to cover these meetings in the future. Ms. Goldmon explained that she and Ms. Meagan Kiser have reviewed the one-year extension of the MOU and plan to do a more robust review next year. Otherwise, there are no legal updates.
- E. Principal Report: Ms. Tracy Cole shared the Principal's Report. Currently, there are 104 scholars. The school is currently recruiting for the new school year and has signed up 124 scholars so far. The school continues to monitor and adjust policies regarding wearing face coverings and moved to having face masks be optional in March. With declining numbers and the fact that Pitt County Schools had already adopted a mask optional policy, the faculty felt comfortable removing the mask mandate while still maintaining respect for every person's choice to wear a mask or not. Ms. Cole expressed her excitement at being able to share recent partnership activities. The partnership with the College of Education Library Sciences division is facilitated by Dr. Rita Soulen. Dr. Soulen arranged a virtual library visit with the Sheppard Memorial Children's Librarian during the week of February 21st. Dr. Soulen also arranged an author, Pamela Tuck, to visit the scholars at the Community School on April 5th. Pamela Tuck is a native of Bethel who shared her journey to becoming an author and read her book *As Fast as Words Could Fly*. Every scholar and staff member also received an autographed copy of the book. The Science Olympiad Team had a fantastic inaugural season. Ms. Cole noted that Dr. Anderson was instrumental in orchestrating and helping the team prepare and compete. They competed in the Pitt County Regional Tournament during the week of April 4th. The Community School's team won in the following areas: 1st place in 3,2,1 Blast Off, 2nd place in Marshmallow Catapult, 2nd place in STEM Design, 3rd place in Science Password, and Winner of the Tournament Spirit Award. On April 21st, the ECU Theatre Department helped scholars celebrate Earth Day by visiting the school and performing *The Great Kapoke Tree*. The school is currently in review mode in order to prepare for North Carolina End-of-Grade tests. Testing for scholars in grades 3-5 will begin on May 26th. Dr. Kristin Gehsmann asked for an update on literacy. Dr. Anderson noted that the assessment period for PALS has just opened. She also noted how helpful the literacy specialists have been, with one working in K-2 and the other in 3-5. They assist with in-classroom teaching and also do pull-outs for more focused instruction. The AmeriCorps volunteers have also been instrumental in supporting the literacy program. Additionally, some scholarship winners from the College of Education came and tutored some of the scholars this year. Ms. Cole expressed deep gratitude to Dr. Anderson for her devotion to the Community School. Dr. Anderson is only scheduled to work at the Community School for 20 hours per week but is there far more often than that. Dr. Anderson and her team have assessed every scholar to identify his/her strengths and weaknesses and developed a literacy plan based on these assessments. Dr. Anderson expressed her gratitude for being able to work at the school, noting it is her favorite part of her job. Dr. Gehsmann thanked Dr. Rouse for supporting this initiative. Mr. Moore asked if there has been any fallout or discussion about the dress code. Ms. Cole explained that there have not been any issues with dress code.

Discussion Items – None

Action Items – Require Board Action

- A. Approval of 2022-2023 ECUCS Calendar

Dr. Rouse noted that the most recent version of the school's calendar for the coming year has been distributed to everyone prior to the meeting. There might be subsequent changes, but the Board needs to approve the current version. Dr. Rouse asked if there was a motion to approve the 2022-2023 ECUCS Calendar. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 ECUCS Calendar. Dr. Gehsmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

B. Election of 2022-2023 Officers

Dr. Rouse shared the by-law regarding the election of officers and asked for nominations for Chair. Mr. Chris Locklear made a motion to nominate Dr. Rouse to continue to serve as Chair without reservation. Dr. Hodge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote, so Dr. Rouse will serve as Chair of the Board for 2022-2023. Dr. Rouse asked if there was a motion to nominate anyone as Vice Chair. Dr. Gehsmann made a motion to nominate Dr. Anderson to serve as Vice Chair for 2022-2023. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote, so Dr. Anderson will serve as Vice Chair of the Board for 2022-2023. There was a brief discussion about the need to nominate a Secretary for the Board. It was decided that the Board did not need a secretary. Mr. Moore made a motion for Mr. Scott Gómez to continue serving as the Liaison to the Board for another year. Dr. Gehsmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote, so Mr. Gómez will continue as Liaison to the Board for 2022-2023.

Closing Comments: Dr. Rouse asked if there were any closing comments. Dr. Gehsmann congratulated Ms. Cole and her staff for surviving several extraordinarily difficult years. She also thanked Dr. Anderson and Dr. Rouse for their continued support of the literacy programming she started at the Community School. Dr. Rouse thanked everyone for their energy and commitment. He expressed gratitude for the wonderful partnership with Pitt County Schools, thanking Dr. Ethan Lenker and his staff. He also noted that Ms. Tracy Cole is an exceptional leader and expressed how thankful he is that she is the Community School's Principal.

Dr. Rouse adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Next meeting: August 11, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Speight 203 and virtually on Teams