

ECU Community School Advisory Board
August 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Hybrid: Speight 203 and MS Teams
Minutes

Presiding: Dr. Andre Green, Chair

Board Officers in Attendance: Dr. André Green, Dr. Rita Soulen, Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Dr. Ms. Karson N. Hallow, Dr. Vanessa Irvin, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Mr. Robert Moore

University Counsel in Attendance: Ms. Meagan Kiser

Affiliates in Attendance: Mr. Al Barnhill, Ms. Tracy Cole, Ms. Jo Melnyk, Ms. Meagan Thornton, Mr. Scott Gomez

Special Guests in Attendance: None

Board Members Absent from Meeting: Mr. Jeff Roberts

Call to Order: Dr. Andre Green called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He thanked everyone for their participation and welcomed new members Ms. Karson Hallow, Dr. Vanessa Irvin, and Dr. Steve Lassiter.

Approval of the Minutes: Dr. Green called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Dr. Soulen noted a correction in section E. to add Dr. Swaggerty's name " and to Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty as Chair of the LEHE Department." Dr Anderson made a motion to approve the revised minutes from the May 2024 meeting. Robert Moore seconded the motion. The motion to approve the revised minutes from the May 2024 meeting passed unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda: Dr. Green asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Swaggerty made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Expression: None.

Updates to the Board

A. Finance Report: Ms. Meagan Thornton shared an update on the budget and displayed a spreadsheet "2024-2025 Initial Budget". Between the state and local funds there are a few forfeitures. We have about \$1.2 million Total Funding Budget. Federal money has decreased over the last few years because we're losing the COVID and ESSER funding. So we are down to \$153,449 for NC DPI Federal Grant Funds Total and the UNC system funding totals \$280,000. Additionally, we have \$155,552 from ECU Academic Affairs and \$73,944 from ECU Legislative Increases.

B. Legal Report: There was no legal update.

C. Community School Operational Update: Ms. Cole shared two operational updates.

- The Community School is working with a task force to align its requirements for background checks and fingerprinting requirements with lab school legislation. This alignment will impact employees, Advisory Board Members, visiting faculty members, practicum students, interns, and student teachers. The task force will look at current procedures next Tuesday and will be making changes to the process. Dr. Green noted that according to the state legislation, members of the advisory board will need to qualify, whether visiting the school or not.
- The Community School is scheduled to have a Consolidated Federal Programs Monitoring Visit on October 31, 2024. Visits occur on a rotating cycle. The first visit was in 2020. We will receive more information about the visit approximately one month before the visit.

D. Personnel Report: Ms. Tracy Cole noted no resignations since the last board meeting. One recommendation for hire was made since Dr. Pennington resigned at the end of last school year to take a position as an assistant professor at Western Carolina University. She will be replaced by Ms. Adria as Special Education Director/Teacher. Ms. Lane is from Craven County and prior to that from Pitt County. She has also been a school administrator. Ms. Cole also noted one vacancy for a regular education teacher assistant.

E. Principal Report: Ms. Cole shared the Principal's Report.

- Community School ended on a strong note:
 - The Extended School Year ended for our scholars on June 27, 2024.
 - The Community School staff's last day was July 15, 2024.
 - 100% of 3-5 grade scholars took the first administration of the reading, math, and science End-of-Grade tests.
 - The Community School had an assessment Monitoring Visit on May 30, 2024
 - Advisory Board Members received a copy of the Monitoring Visit report
 - No policy and operational concerns were identified during this visit
 - All test data is preliminary at this point in the school year. The State Board of Education must approve the data. Based on initial data reviews, the Community School continued to see increases in student proficiency in reading, math, and science compared to the 2022-2023 school year.
- Enrollment Projection-116 scholars. School cap is 125 scholars.
 - Kindergarten-18 scholars
 - First-15 scholars
 - Second-19 scholars
 - Third-18 scholars
 - Fourth-24 scholars
 - Fifth-22 scholars
 - 15 children on "Wait List" (Three-Kindergarten, Three-2nd Grade, Four-3rd Grade, Four-4th Grade, and One-5th grader)

- Partnerships
 - East Carolina University Colleges and Departments
 - The COE Counseling Division will continue to provide school-based mental health services. Dr. Jason Perry leads this endeavor.
 - The COE Literacy Studies Department will continue to partner with the Community School to conduct a READ practicum with approximately 100 students starting in the fall.
 - The Speech-Language Division will continue their Pirate Play group to support the oral language and literacy development of our kindergarten scholars. Mrs. Crystal Shearin leads this endeavor.
 - The following ECU student groups have already reached out to help with our school:
 - Brinkley Lane Scholars
 - Epsilon Sigma Alpha

- Upcoming Events
 - August 16, 2024: ECUCS Faculty and Staff Members Report
 - August 22, 2024: ECUCS Open House from 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
 - August 26, 2024: First Scholar Day
 - September 10, 2024: Beginning of Third Grade Reading Test
 - September 12, 2024: ECUCS Curriculum Night

Board members will receive invitations to Curriculum Night. Dr. Green stated that he is looking forward to the new school year and anticipating engagement with the scholars.

F. Discussion Items: Dr. Swaggerty offered support for the monitoring visit and curriculum night from herself and her faculty. New board members made comments. Dr. Irvin expressed thanks for her participation on the board and is excited to be involved. Ms. Nelson noted that she visited the Community School with legislators as a wonderful model looks forward to future visits. Dr. Lassiter looks forward to serving on the board and continuing this very special partnership which is important to all children as Community School scholars come back to Pitt County. He is committed to a strong vibrant partnership. He also expressed his thanks to Dr. Swaggerty for her support since he was named as interim superintendent of Pitt County Schools. Dr. Anderson recognized and thanked Dr. Hodge for her leadership which was very much appreciated.

Action Items: There were no action items noted.

Closing Comments: Dr. Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Irvin seconded. Dr. Green adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Next meeting: November 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m., hybrid Speight 203 and Teams