

ECU Community School Advisory Board
August 10, 2023
9:04 a.m. – 9:34 a.m.
Virtually on Teams

Presiding: Dr. Elizabeth Hodge, Chair

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Dr. André Green, Dr. Ethan Lenker, Mr. Robert Moore, and Dr. Alana Zambone

University Counsel in Attendance: Ms. Toni Douglas

Guests in Attendance: Ms. Tracy Cole and Ms. Meagan Thornton

Special Guests in Attendance: none

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

Call to Order: Dr. Elizabeth Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. She thanked everyone for their participation.

Approval of the Minutes: Dr. Hodge 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. Ethan Lenker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda: Dr. Hodge asked if there was a motion to approve the updated agenda. Dr. Lenker made a motion to approve the updated agenda. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Expression: None.

Updates to the Board

- A. Community School Operational Update: Dr. Hodge shared that the school has returned to Community Eligibility Status for this year, so scholars will eat breakfast and lunch for free. Pitt County Schools requested two classrooms in the modular unit due to growth at South Greenville Elementary. Those spaces have been returned to the school district. Due to the space request, the Community School's layout has been adjusted. For the 2023-2024 school year, all kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, and special education classes will be in the main building on the 200 hallway. The fourth and fifth grade classes will be in the modular unit. To support Pitt County Schools in their desire to maximize their county-wide tiered bell schedule, our morning drop-off and afternoon loading times have been adjusted.

- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Tracy Cole noted that there have been four resignations since the last meeting: Callee Bellasai (Kindergarten), Adrian Gray (1st), Jeanne Falvo (Reading Spec.), and Devon Dantzler-Cherry (3rd). There have been the following recommendations for hire: Angena LeBarre (classroom teacher), Elise Moncrease-Mullins (Special Ed. Teaching Asst.), and one pending recommendation for Teaching Asst. The school currently has vacancies in 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, School Nurse, and 2 Teaching Assistants. Due to the vacancies and available space, the school will be configured to have one of each classroom this year. Dr. Lenker commented on the difficulty of finding qualified teachers, noting that Pitt County Schools is in a similar position. There was a brief pause in the meeting while everyone introduced themselves to the new Dean of the College of Education, Dr. André Green.
- C. Finance Report: Ms. Meagan Thornton was absent, so questions about the budget will be referred to her via email.
- D. Legal Report: Ms. Toni Douglas noted that the school has a new, improved MOU with Pitt County Schools that has been signed and executed. She thanked both Ms. Tracy Cole and Dr. Lenker for their help with creating a stronger document that accurately reflects the current partnership. Ms. Douglas also noted that her office will be restructuring board policies to reflect the changes that have happened in the last few years with virtual meetings. Those policy updates will be shared at the next meeting. Dr. Hodge requested training on how to facilitate voting in virtual meetings.
- E. Principal Report: Ms. Tracy Cole shared the Principal's Report. Community School ended on a strong note. The Extended School Year ended for our scholars on June 29th and the staff's last day was on July 7th. 100% of our 3-5 grade scholars took the first administration of the reading, math, and science End-of-Grade tests. 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 2021-2022 school year. Current enrollment is 126 scholars with a cap of 127. There are currently 16 Kindergarten, 19 First, 22 Second, 24 Third, 24 Fourth, and 21 Fifth scholars enrolled. There are five children on the "Wait List." The Community School continues to have strong partnerships. The COE Math Department will be working with our staff for the upcoming school year. Dr. Katie Schwartz and Dr. Carrie Lee will be working on math vertical alignment. The COE Literacy Studies Department will partner with the Community School to conduct a READ practicum with approximately 100 students starting in the fall. The COE Library Science program and ECU Teacher Resource Center are going to take a deep dive in to Project Based Learning with our staff. The COE Special Education Department will continue their "Lunch Bunch" practicum experience. The Speech-Language Division will continue their Pirate Play group to support the oral language and literacy development of our kindergarten scholars. The Occupational Therapy Division will continue to work with our third-grade scholars on handwriting. There are several upcoming events: Faculty and staff report on August 17th, Open House will be from 4 until 6 p.m. on August 24th, and students report on August 28th. Dr. Zambone offered thanks and congratulations to Dr. Anderson, Ms. Cole, and the entire literacy team for what they have accomplished with the students.

Discussion Items

A. Board membership

Dr. Hodge noted that the board needs to appoint two new members. Dr. Kimberly Anderson suggested inviting Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty to join. Dr. Hodge asked Ms. Cole if there might be anyone from the school's various partnerships who might be interested in joining the board. Ms. Cole suggested asking Dr. Rita Soulen, Dr. Catherine Schwartz, or Dr. Carrie Lee. Dr. Hodge will invite those suggested to join the board.

Action Items - None

Closing Comments: Dr. Hodge asked for closing comments. Dr. Alana Zambone expressed hope for another wonderful year and offered help to Ms. Cole. Mr. Moore also offered help and thanked everyone who has helped make the ECU Community School a successful endeavor. He specifically thanked Ms. Cole and Dr. Lenker for their dedication. Dr. Anderson noted the strengths of the school's partnerships as evidenced in the PowerPoint shared during the meeting. Mr. Moore and Dr. Zambone both welcomed Dr. Green to the board. Dr. Hodge thanked the board for their ongoing engagement and thanked Ms. Cole and Dr. Lenker as well.

Dr. Hodge adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Next meeting: November 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m., TBD