

ECU Community School Advisory Board
May 9, 2024
8:59 a.m. – 9:21 a.m.
Hybrid: Speight 203 and MS Teams

Presiding: Dr. Elizabeth Hodge, Chair

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Kimberly Anderson, Dr. André Green, Dr. Ethan Lenker, Dr. Chris Locklear, Mr. Robert Moore, Dr. Rita Soulen, Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty, and Dr. Alana Zambone

University Counsel in Attendance: Mr. C.J. Click-Kimber

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

Special Guests in Attendance: None

Board Members Absent from Meeting: Mr. Jeff Roberts

Call to Order: Dr. Elizabeth Hodge called the meeting to order at 8:59 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. Dr. Alana Zambone made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Kimberly Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda: Dr. Hodge asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Kimberly Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Alana Zambone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Expression: None.

Updates to the Board

- A. Community School Operational Update: Dr. Hodge first wanted to acknowledge Dr. Lenker for his service on the Board and express deep appreciation for all that he has done for the ECU Community School, the College of Education, and East Carolina University. On behalf of the entire Board, she thanked him and wished him the best of luck as he retires and transitions to a new chapter in life. She also thanked Pitt County Schools for their continued support. She thanked PCS Transportation for providing buses every day for students, including field trips, and she thanked PCS Nutrition for the phenomenal work they do providing breakfasts, lunches, fresh fruits and veggies, and snacks for After School Tutoring. She continued with the report, noting that the City of Greenville had completed a fire inspection on February 22nd, where two items were found that had to be corrected. There were two lockdowns on March 5th and April 7th. The 2024 NC Teacher Working

Conditions Survey was administered to all faculty and staff recently, and the results were released 2 weeks ago. The results for the faculty and staff at the Community School were positive. Those results were sent to all Board members via email. Those results were also shared with ECU's Leadership and the Leadership for the College of Education. The Community School received a compliment about these results from Dr. Clay Smith, the Assistant Director for Teacher Preparation and Lab Schools. The Community School's Leadership Team will identify areas for growth, strategically develop strategies, and work to implement the strategies for the upcoming school year.

- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Tracy Cole noted that there has only been one employee resignation since the last meeting: Ms. Amber Sajecki resigned as Teaching Assistant. Her last day was March 2nd. There are no other updates for personnel.
- C. Finance Report: Ms. Meagan Thornton shared an update on the budget. The Community School is in good shape budget-wise. Some federal funds will need to be switched over and, there is still some ESSER III money that needs to be spent. Otherwise, the budget is balanced. There were no questions.
- D. Legal Report: There was no legal update.
- E. Principal Report: Ms. Cole shared the Principal's Report. The Community School continues to have a busy 3rd Nine Weeks. Current enrollment is 114 scholars. Dean Green came to read to the scholars during Read Across America Week, celebrated from March 4-7. On March 8th, the entire school took a field trip to the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, based on a grant that was written by two teachers. Dr. Scott Glass met the scholars at the aquarium during that field trip. On March 16th, the Community School's Science Olympiad Team competed at J. H. Rose High School with 19 other elementary schools, both public and private. The Community School team placed in three categories: 3rd Place in Thrill Seekers, 5th Place in Ping Pong Parachute, and 6th Place in Pasta Tower. The scholars were extremely excited about their wins and are already planning for next year. The Science Olympiad Team also came to the ECU campus and were celebrated by ECU faculty. The school hosted a Spring Fling on March 21st, where students came to dance to music supplied by DJ Midas. The 3rd quarter benchmark assessments were completed during April 4-9. The After School Tutorial ended on April 26th. The program was completed by scholars from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades, and the focus was literacy. Ms. Cole offered a special thanks to Dr. Kimberly Anderson for leading those tutorial efforts, to Dr. Marjorie Rowe for her support of the After School Tutorial, and to Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty as Chair of the LEHE Department. The Tutorial program ended with a Readers' Theatre that was highly successful. Parent Conference Night was May 2nd. It was also Middle School Registration Night: the Community School has scholars who will be transitioning to CM Eppes, EB Aycock, Farmville Middle, and Wellcome Middle Schools in the Fall. The Extended School Year for the Community School will run from June 12-27. Looking ahead to next year, the Community School currently has 115 scholars who are registered to attend. Tentatively, there will be 17 Kindergarteners, 15 First Graders, 19 Second Graders,

18 Third Graders, 24 Fourth Graders, and 22 Fifth Graders. Lastly, the Community School would like to spotlight a few other faculty/staff members. Congratulations to Mrs. Yvette Spells, the school's administrative assistant, for graduating with her bachelor's degree from ECU. The school would also like to offer extra thanks to Dr. Carrie Lee with the COE Math Education Department for helping to develop a new math curriculum for next year. Dr. Lee has been reviewing assorted options with two different companies with the goal of selecting and creating a new curriculum for the upcoming school year.

Discussion Items – None

Action Items – None

A. Approval of the ECUCS 2024-2025 calendar

Dr. Hodge reminded the Board members that they had received a copy of the new calendar for the Community School for next year in an email prior to the meeting. She asked if there were any questions or comments. As there were none, she asked for a motion to approve the new calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Ethan Lenker made a motion to approve the ECUCS 2024-2025 calendar. Dr. Rita Soulen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Election of 2024-2025 Officers

Dr. Hodge explained that she had conferred with University Counsel and reviewed the rules for how elections should take place. She read some of those rules aloud to ensure that everyone understands how this process would proceed at this meeting. The Advisory Board shall elect every year a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. There should be a call for nominations. Once the nominations for all three officers have been set, the board members will vote by ballot or vocally. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority vote. If there is only one nomination for each position, then that candidate can automatically be appointed. The newly elected officers take office immediately. Dr. Hodge asked for nominations for Chair. Dr. Anderson nominated Dr. André Green. As there were no other nominations, Dr. Zambone moved for nominations to be closed. With only one nomination, Dr. Green was automatically appointed as Chair. Dr. Hodge asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Dr. Hodge nominated Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty. As there were no other nominations, Dr. Zambone moved for nominations to be closed. With only one nomination, Dr. Swaggerty was automatically appointed as Vice-Chair. Dr. Hodge asked for nominations for Secretary. Dr. Anderson nominated Dr. Rita Soulen. As there were no other nominations, Dr. Zambone moved for nominations to be closed. With only one nomination, Dr. Soulen was automatically appointed as Secretary. Dr. Hodge noted that there are a few members of the board who are leaving the Board. She expressed thanks on behalf of the entire Board to Dr. Chris Locklear for his many years of service to the ECU Community School as a member of the Board. She also thanked Dr. Ethan Lenker for his service to the Community School as a member of the Board and as the Superintendent of Pitt County Schools. Dr. Hodge shared that two new board members have been appointed and will be serving next year. She then turned the meeting over to the newly elected Chair, Dr. Green.

Closing Comments: Dr. Green took over as Chair and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He expressed that he was looking forward to continuing to work for the Community School, as it has a special place in his heart. He officially made a commitment to continue to work to make the ECU Community School the best elementary school in the state: a commitment he proffers as Dean and from the entire College of Education. It was acknowledged that Dr. Elizabeth Hodge and Dr. Alana Zambone have also completed their second and final terms with the ECUCS Advisory Board. They were thanked for their service. Dr. Kimberly Anderson thanked Mr. Scott Gómez for his support of the Advisory Board. Dr. Green noted that this is also Mr. Gómez's last meeting as Acting Secretary and thanked him for volunteering his time this past year, since he has a new position and is no longer officially working for the Community School.

Dr. Green adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Next meeting: August 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m., TBD