

Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 15, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Melinda Fagundus, Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz, Amy Cole, Caroline Doherty, Benjie Forrest, Don Rhodes, Anna Barrett Smith, James E. Tripp Jr.

ABSENT: Worth Forbes

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Matt Johnson, Debra Baggett, Dr. Kristi Rhone, Karen Harrington, Jennifer L. Johnson, Beth Ann Trueblood, Jeff Smith

ALSO PRESENT REMOTELY: Preston Bowers

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 12:06 P.M.

PLACE: Carolina Room in the Kathy Taft Center, 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834

Chair Melinda Fagundus opened the Board Work Session at 12:06 p.m. Chair Fagundus noted that all Board members were present except Worth Forbes.

Finance Update

1. June 30, 2020, Audit Report

Chair Fagundus called on Debra Baggett, Chief Financial Officer to present the finance updates. Ms. Baggett introduced Michael Jordan of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC to present the 2020 audit to the Board. Mr. Jordan presented highlights of the audit and trends in the financial data. Much discussion occurred between Ms. Baggett, Mr. Jordan and the Board members. Ms. Baggett requested that the audit report to be allowed on the March 1, 2021, Consent agenda. Consensus of the Board members was to allow this item on the March 1, 2021, Consent agenda.

2. 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #2

Ms. Baggett then presented Budget Amendment #2 to the Board members. Ms. Baggett shared that budget amendment #2 involved an increase of \$11,727,948.62 in spending for various items, some of which have included additional state or federal funding. Some discussion occurred between Ms. Baggett and the Board members. Ms. Baggett requested that Budget Amendment #2 to be placed on the consent agenda for the March 1, 2021 meeting. Consensus of the Board members was to allow this item on the March 1, 2021, Consent agenda.

3. Budget Planning for 2021-2022

Ms. Baggett then presented budget planning for the 2021-2022 school year information for the state budget and local budget. Regarding local requests, Ms. Baggett advised the Board that the district wishes to seek an additional \$423,815, in local dollars to grow teachers and assistant principals in-house, a biopharma CTE academy similar to the Health Sciences Academy, and to cover the teacher incentive grant fund.

EPS Updates

1. Graduation Update

Preston Bowers, High School Facilitator and AVID District Director, shared updates with the Board regarding plans for the 2020- 2021 high school graduation. Mr. Bowers noted that the plan is to hold graduation ceremonies at Minges unless ECU is unable, after the governors' executive order expires later this month, or unwilling to rent the facility to the Board. He stated if that happens, we will pursue an alternative of on-site high school graduations. He also noted that the number of tickets would probably be limited under either scenario. Some discussion occurred between Mr. Bowers and the Board members.

2. Grow Local Update

Beth Ann Trueblood, Director of Career and Technical Education, presented updates to the Board regarding the Grow Local program which will be held March 22-26, 2021 via remote means.

HR Updates

2021-2022 Calendar Update

Dr. Kristi Rhone, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, shared stakeholder feedback regarding the school calendar A and B options with the Board members. She noted that based on responses, the proposed calendar A was revised and resubmitted to the stakeholder groups for review. She presented the revised calendar to the Board members, with the following revisions:

- First day for students, August 23, 2021
- Last day for students, June 10, 2022
- First Semester ends, December 17, 2021
- Spring Break, March 14-18, 2022
- Easter Week Break, the week of April 11, 2022

Dr. Rhone and Dr. Lenker noted that the calendar could be revised with the Board's approval pending any changes to the law. After much discussion, Dr. Rhone requested that the 2021-2022 academic calendar to be allowed on the March 1, 2021, Consent agenda with the caveat that the proposed calendar could change if the General Assembly allowed an earlier start date. Consensus of the Board members was to allow this item on the March 1, 2021, Consent agenda.

Student Services Update

Karen Harrington, Director of Student Services, and Jennifer L. Johnson, Public Information Officer, shared updates with the Board regarding the following:

- Incidence of COVID-19 in schools
- Changes in the pandemic affecting case tracking
- Quarantine and isolation instructions given to staff and students who have had COVID exposures
- COVID fatigue
- Frustration with quarantine
- Isolation protocols
- Pandemic more generally

Dr. Lenker also shared some updates following the governor's announcement regarding COVID vaccination for K-12 staff and the conversations he has been having with local healthcare providers to distribute the vaccine to staff.

Items from the Chair

Chair Fagundus had no items to share.

Closed Session

Tracy Everette Lenz made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 143.318.11(a) (3) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel and to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Caroline Doherty and passed unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 2:01 pm.

Return to Open Session

At 2:06 pm, the Board resumed open session.

Adjourn

Chair Fagundus adjourned the work session at 2:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Fagundus, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary