



Achievement House Cyber Charter School Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

The Executive Session commenced at 6:00 p.m. and continued until approximately 6:55 p.m.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call
 - Mrs. Marilou Strangarity (President) – Present
 - Mrs. Lisabeth Sweeney (Vice President) – Present
 - Mrs. Kristin Chettle (Treasurer) – Present
 - Mr. Don Fraatz (Secretary) – Present
 - Dr. Bob Maranto – Not Present
 - Desmondé Pringle – Present
 - Dr. Gerri Light – Present
- III. Notification of Recording
 - A. Marilou Strangarity announced that the Public Session would be recorded on an audio and video device.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 board meeting.
 1. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 board meeting by Kristin Chettle
Seconded by Don Fraatz. Unanimous.
- V. Executive Session Statement
 - A. M. Strangarity announced that the Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- VI. Oath of Office
 - A. The following new Board Members took the oath of office administered by Brian Leinhauser:
 1. Gerri Light
 2. Kristin Chettle
- VII. Discussion of Academic/SPED Video Report
 - A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Academic/SPED Video Report.
 - B. Neal Thomas updated everyone on the Academic/SPED video report.
 1. N. Thomas and Don Asplen met with the new School Improvement Plan Group Leader. We are now set up to meet our new Group Facilitator and Core Team Members next Monday and then the following Monday will be our first official meeting.
 2. He noted that Back to School session went well. We had approximately 250 people attend. This included staff, students, and parents.
 - C. D. Aspen shared that Guidance and Academics have proposed the idea of early graduation and some discussion followed.
 1. We need to decide if this is something AHCCS should offer. There are a lot of variables to consider.
 2. D. Asplen asked Alane Butler and N. Thomas what are some of the reasons parents/students were giving for wanting early graduation.
 - a) For the ones in 11th grade trying to graduate a whole year earlier, they are requesting it because they have been working on this since they were in middle school. This has always been their goal.
 - b) For the ones in 12th grade it's because they didn't have enough credits to graduate and don't want to have to repeat the whole year.
 - c) Some students are asking to graduate early because of COVID-19. They just want to graduate and move on since school is not the same as it used to be.
 3. N. Thomas noted that if we go this route, we want to make sure that they are ready to go out into the world. It should be a privilege to graduate early.

4. N. Thomas also reminded everyone that the juniors this year (the graduating class of 2022) are the first class that have this new rule that says they have to be proficient in the Keystones or complete some other project. So, if they are a junior now and were to graduate early (2021), this rule would not apply. If they are a sophomore now and want to graduate early (2022), this rule would apply.
5. Elizabeth Sweeney suggested that we should request that the student be advanced in all Keystones if they want to graduate a year early.
6. B. Leinhauser stated that we need to wait until the Board adopts a policy and suggested this response for when we are asked about early gradation:
 - a) We are looking into how to structure this and we are going to put a process together with the Board and we should have something by the end of next months meeting.

VIII. Discussion HR Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the HR Video Report.
- B. D. Asplen shared in Bob Worn's absence that Crystal Hegarty resigned today.

IX. Discussion Enrollment/Marketing Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Enrollment/Marketing Video Report.
- B. Alane Butler was very excited to announced that we now have 881 students enrolled. She also noted that we had very good turnout at the first Parent Orientation Meeting.
- C. D. Asplen stated that he has been in discussions with A. Butler to think through how and when to slow down enrollment and they are working on the details.

X. Discussion of Curriculum Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Curriculum Video Report.
- B. Declan French reported that since our school enrollment is growing, we are splitting into sections in some of our classes. He is very happy about this and we should see more collaboration among our teachers.

XI. Discussion of Guidance Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the Guidance Video Report.
- B. D. Asplen shared some updates about Guidance in Kris Botes' absence.
 1. He summarized Chapter 339 and noted that Guidance is tasked with providing classes for this and we have grown to the point where we probably need to hire another teacher.
 2. He shared that Guidance hired someone to help temporarily with filing and data entry.
 3. He shared a new mechanism that they put into place called Loop Back, that after we place a child in classes we loop back at a certain point in time and check to make sure that they were placed in the right classes.
 4. Now he is in discussions with K. Botes to use the same type of loop back program to be able to answer the following: When are classes getting full? When do we need a second session? Do we have caps in classes?
 5. N. Thomas said that they intend to grow the Loop Back a lot more this year.

XII. Finance/Business Report

- A. D. Asplen provided a summary of the monthly Treasurer's Report in Ryan Schumm's absence.
- B. R. Schumm joined the meeting while D. Asplen was giving the summary and confirmed what he shared to be correct and added a few comments.
- C. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report.
 1. Motion to approve the written Treasurer's Report by K. Chettle. Seconded by Des Pringle. Unanimous.

XIII. Discussion CEO Video Report

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any questions or comments about the CEO Video Report.
- B. Don Asplen shared his concern for the emotional toll on everybody but was happy to say that he thinks that 98% of us are really healthy emotionally right now. He noted that we are building it into our PD to talk about the social/emotional, diversity, and inclusion with staff.

- C. M. Strangarity asked that we make sure students/parents are aware that we have help for them especially since there has been an increase in addictions, suicides, and emotional problems. Some discussion followed.
- D. D. Asplen stated that we just hired an in-house counselor for our students, and we have an Employee Assistance Program in place where we offer free counseling and mental health support for our staff.
- E. N. Thomas noted that we have at least a dozen staff members that are SAP certified.

XIV. Personnel

A. New Hires:

- 1. Doug DeSimone, Social Studies Teacher, \$53,000
- 2. Emily Pike, English Teacher, \$43,000
- 3. Gina Polsin, Science Teacher, \$45,000
- 4. Katie Harley, Mentor, \$41,000
- 5. Jordan Connors, Mentor, \$41,000
- 6. Lentoya Ellison, Mentor, \$41,000
- 7. Hannah Sapko, School Based Counselor, \$53,000

B. Internal Transfer:

- 1. Julia Debal, Mentor, \$40,038

C. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the new hires and internal transfer with salaries as listed above.

- 1. Motion to approve the new hires and internal transfer with salaries as listed above by G. Light. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.

XV. Governance

A. Bonuses

- 1. D. Asplen stated that in the private session they outlined some bonuses that they would like to pay for work above and beyond. He called for a resolution to approve the bonuses as detailed in the private session.
- 2. M. Strangarity called for a motion to approve the bonuses as detailed in the private session.
 - a) Motion to approve the bonuses as detailed in the private session by D. Fraatz. Seconded by K. Chettle. Unanimous.

B. New Technology Purchases

- 1. M. Strangarity called for a motion for D. Asplen to be able to purchase various technology items not to exceed \$500,000 in order to ensure our continuity with our new student enrollments.
 - a) Motion for D. Asplen to be able to purchase various technology items not to exceed \$500,000 in order to ensure our continuity with our new student enrollments by K. Chettle. Seconded by Des Pringle. Unanimous.

C. Technology Purchases \$153,819

- 1. D. Asplen stated that last month he was authorized to buy whatever technology was needed to keep the school operating and then the Board would ratify those purchases of hardware technology for student use after the purchase. The total amount was \$153,819.
- 2. M. Strangarity called for a motion to ratify the technology purchase noted above in the amount of \$153,819.
 - a) Motion to ratify the technology purchase noted above in the amount of \$153,819 by D. Pringle. Seconded by G. Light. Unanimous.

XVI. New Business

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there was any new business, but there was none.

XVII. Public Comment

- A. M. Strangarity asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

XVIII. Adjournment

- A. M. Strangarity called for a motion to adjourn the public board meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
 - 1. Motion to adjourn the public meeting by D. Pringle. Seconded by D. Fraatz. Unanimous.