

BREVARD ACADEMY – A CHALLENGE FOUNDATION ACADEMY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

February 10, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

Searcy Hall

Chair: Warren Alston

Secretary: Ashleigh Dalton

Members present: Laura Thomas, Nick Losue, Amy Knight, Warren Alston, Ashleigh Dalton, and Zia McConnell.

Administration present: Barbara Grimm, Lisa Malaquin-Prey, Camy Stirling, and Kimberly Best. Guests included Phyllis Pearson, Tom Miller, Kristen Rodriguez, and Tony Helton.

The regular meeting of the Brevard Academy Board of Directors was called to order by the Chair at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Warren Alston.

Team CFA: Stewart Marshall is no longer on the board. Replacement will be noted in the coming months. This was a normal occurrence and this happens frequently that team CFA board members are rotated off.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve the agenda. Laura was seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion was carried.**

Consideration and approval of minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve the regular minutes of the January 11, 2016, meeting. Amy seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion was carried.**

Public Comment: None.

Audit Results from June 2015 Audit: By Phyllis Pearson. She referred to pages on 6, 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 48. There is a need for a fidelity bond for everyone who handles school money. This includes collecting money, signing checks, or dealing with money in any order. The fidelity bond needs to be taken care of before the next audit. Warren stated that he will call Morrow Insurance to deal with this tomorrow.(A copy of the audit report is available in the office.)

MAP testing results: By Ms. Kristen Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez stated the children are doing well. We had mid-year testing. Overall the MAP scores look as if we are not growing in the same way as we were two years ago. However, our children have grown so much that they are

actually at a higher proficiency level compared to two years ago. Per Ms. Rodriguez's opinion, she stated that she sees us as being an A school in the near future. Ms. Rodriguez also stated that our middle school did well with the MAP testing and this is usually not the case with this particular age group.

PTO Report: PTO report was presented by Zia. PTO currently has \$5,688.14. January lunch cost \$250.86. January lunch profit was \$379.24. Each class is given \$100 towards field trips which equaled \$1700. Successful bingo chili night \$49.97. On Wednesday, February 10, they are having a luncheon for teachers and staff. On Friday, February 12 is middle school movie night and PTO will be selling concessions. The next big event is the book fair that starts on March 14, 2016.

Note, Warren also asked Barbara for a list of all people who deal with money so that he can have these names when he talks to the insurance company.

Teachers' report: Teacher report, which is presented from the second grade teachers, Ms. Gibbons and Ms. Farmer. The second grade teachers spoke about covering the westward expansion and how they are moving into the Civil War. The children could either do a diorama, dress up as a character, or make a character comic strip, which was all reflecting the westward expansion. The classes also did a good deed for Charlie's Angels. The classes made 125 dog treats to donate to the animal rescue. When the children donated the dog treats, Charlie's Angels actually came to Brevard Academy and talked to the students about safety and benefits of having pets, etc.

Financial report from Nick:

1. Revenue for Transylvania County is request to add \$100,000.
2. Line 1 is salary bonus request to add \$19,500.

Revenue: Increase by \$100,000

Expense: Increase by \$19,500

Net Change: Increase Net Surplus by \$80,500.00

Net Surplus: \$293,463.60(after recommended budget changes)

Motion: A motion was made by Zia to approve the budget amendments as presented. Nick was seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion was carried.**

Director report: Barbara Grimm

ENROLLMENT

One additional new student started in the month of January.

Current Total – 290

Current Initial Applications – 34
Number of Slots Available - 58

ADVERTISING

White Squirrel: Our next radio spot will be Tuesday, February 9th at 9:15. Katie Delizza will be joining me to discuss kindergarten at Brevard Academy.

Fundraising

A live auction will be held on Saturday, June 4th at the Brevard Lumber Yard. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the playground. Moonyean Wood and Carolyn Hardin have taken the lead on this and information will be going out to parents during the week of February 8th. We are asking for all parents to help in collecting items for the auction.

Reading Night

At our reading Night Event on February 25th, we will also be addressing kindergarten readiness for visiting parents.

ACADEMICS

Assessment

Kristen Rodriguez will be at our February 10th faculty meeting to discuss MAP results.

AIG

The request to file a plan for AIG with the state has been submitted. We will be participating in a webinar in February to assist in writing the plan. The plan will be presented to the board at the April board meeting and submitted to the state for approval by July 1st.

EC – RELATED SERVICES

We have finally found a qualified EC teacher to fill the position funded by State Reserve Special Fund to support our 8th grade student with autism. Lynda Reeves holds a PHD in Exceptional Children and we are excited to welcome her on our staff.

Middle School

We would like to consider adding an additional Math and Science Teacher for Middle School due to the increase in enrollment. We will have 81 students in Middle School with the possibility of adding another 19 or more. With 100 students, 6 teachers would give us the opportunity to offer more options for our middle school students. Currently, we have three teachers who can all teach language arts and social studies, but only one math and one science teacher. The addition of another math/science combination would give us more options to broaden our course offerings. This would give us classes of sixteen or seventeen. The need for urgency exists in that we have an extremely qualified candidate who must would have to sign a contract for his other school in March.

ATHLETICS

Our boys' basketball team won the Blue Ridge Mountain Conference for the second time in 4 seasons in the league. They posted an 11-4 record, which matches the best record in BA history with the 2012-13 team. The girl's team improved tremendously throughout the year and we are excited to see the direction that program is going. We will be returning 16 out of 19 players for the girl's squad and 11 out of 16 for the boy's squad.

The faculty/student game will be played on Monday, Feb. 8th at 4:00. The 5th/6th graders will play any parent that wants to play at 4:00. The 7th/8th graders will play any faculty member that wants to play at 5:00. We will have our winter sports banquet in Searcy on Thursday, Feb. 11th at 5:00.

We are currently in the process of finalizing the soccer and tennis schedules. We are still trying to finalize where we will host and practice for those sports also.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education has been exciting with all the snow! We've been able to get out and make observations about the snow (looking and learning from all new perspectives). In the new year, we are also now incorporating 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save The Earth in a variety of our lessons. We're looking forward to working together and welcoming spring with open arms (eyes, minds, ears, etc)!

SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE

We have completed a school safety plan and are awaiting board approval.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 12 Mandatory Parent Conferences

Middle School Movie Night

February 15th President's Day Holiday

February 25th Reading Night

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

Back Pack Buddies

We have identified 4 families that have food insecurities. We have received donations of \$180 from Brevard Academy parents.

Hot Chocolate Chats

On January 14th, Middle school students visited Silvermont to meet with senior citizens and share hot chocolate and stories of life in the 60's. A great time was had by all!

“Soup”er Bowl Food Drive

4th grade is collecting, counting and delivering can foods to the Bread of Life during the week of February 1st-5th.

Jump Rope for Heart

Collections for Jump Rope for Heart are being collected during the week of February 1st-5th. Our school wide goal is \$1,000.

Volunteer Opportunities

This month in tutoring and volunteers we are welcoming in 26 new Brevard College volunteers. 22 are members of the Brevard College Soccer Team and the other 4 are students completing a 15 hour volunteer assignment for an education class. Trudy has been busy coordinating, orientating and placing these volunteers in positions such as math tutors, reading tutors, Spanish helpers and small group mentoring. Many students will receive some extra needed help thanks to the time offered from these volunteers.

BUS

We spent \$145 on gas and \$453.37 on the air brake repair. We are in the process of searching the used bus inventory for a bus that meets our needs. Shane will be getting with the folks at Thomas Jefferson to help in finding good quality buses that will meet our needs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NCAGT Conference Gifted Education: Celebrating Exceptional Opportunities

March 3-4, 2016, Winston-Salem

Nonnie Cullipher and Barbara Grimm

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

March 9th-11th, Charlotte

Camy Stirling and Barbara Grimm

PROJECT UPDATES

Outdoor Master Plan

The diagram is close to being complete. We are beginning to write grants for different areas.

7th grade is working on a grant for growing your own salad bar, an orchard, a zen garden and benches and natural spaces along the trail.

Playground

We have been in discussion with Mike Fischesser with Bean Sprouts Journeys. This company has just completed a handicap accessible playground in Morganton and he is interested in helping us do something similar.

Indoor Natural Spaces

On February 12th, we will be hosting a contingent of folks who wish to be involved in the project of "bringing Pisgah Forest indoors". The Pisgah Ranger and Brevard Academy parent, Derrick Ibarguen has been reaching out to others to be a part of this team. He has also been in contact with the ranger who worked on this project in Alabama. We have been invited to visit this school for a first hand look.

Action Items

- Allocation of \$20,000 towards the playground to assist initial fundraising efforts.
- Approval of the Crisis Plan
- Approval of New Position for a Middle School Math/Science Position for the 2016-2017 school year

Note: At the March meeting: List of wants we need for the new school

Team CFA Report: Laura Thomas

Laura stated that board training is complete for all board members at this time. Also two additional teachers are added to the total for the annual conference in June. Dates for conference are June 23 through the June 25 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Committee Report:

Facilities: Amy Knight

- Amy stated that progress notes about the new building were going out weekly to parents and on website. The new building is on schedule and moving right along. Warren stated within facilities to make note that the new school site is a construction site and people have to sign in and also have hard hats on in order to be on the property. The construction team has requested that visitors do not go to the new school site. Visitors actually slow down the progress at this point in construction.

Fundamental development & Outreach

- Barbara stated that there is a committee of about 15 people that are working towards a live and silent auction on June 4 at the lumber yard. Goal is to raise \$50,000 for the playground and the committee is in the process of getting businesses together for donations.

Brevard Academy Bulldog challenge-run, Nick is working towards for the end of May.

Long Range Planning

- Nothing to report.

Personnel

- Letters of intent went out. Barbara will report changes in March.

Board Development, Policies and Procedures-Zia and Amy

- Bylaws, hard copies are to be given to us before the March meeting so we can talk about those policies and procedures in March.

Old Business:

Transportation committee: Barbara stated that we are currently seeking a person/parent to lead this committee. Amy and Ashleigh have stated that they will serve on the committee, but are not able to head the committee.

New Business:

- Barbara presented different options for a playground for the new space at the new school. Warren wants to find out about expansion of the school, if we were to expand past 450 students would we need the space close to the school for expansion of a new wing or is that space okay to use for a playground. Warren wants the board to get together to decide on the future vision and goal to try to make a decision if 450 students will financially sustain our school or do we need to look to increase our student enrollment past 450 students at some point. Barbara has asked for \$20,000 for good faith for the playground and this would be a new line item in budget.
- **Motion:** There was a motion from Nick to approve this good faith \$20,000 towards the playground and Zia seconded it. It was unanimous for fund raising efforts.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 9 at 5:00 p.m. in Searcy. We will have a break at this time and come back at 06:28 for a closed session for personnel.

Closed Session:

Motion: Nick made a motion from the floor to enter into a closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information under the NC general Statutes 143.318.11(a)(1) to discuss items related to personnel matters. Laura seconded. Unanimous vote. **Motion carried.** The Board entered into Closed Session at 06:30 p.m.

Out of closed session at 07:23 p.m.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the closed session made by Zia and it was seconded by Nick. It was unanimous.

Adjourn:

Motion: Nick made a motion to adjourn. Zia seconded. Vote was unanimous.
Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.