

BREVARD ACADEMY – A CHALLENGE FOUNDATION ACADEMY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

October 19, 2015, 5:45 p.m.

Searcy Hall

Chair: Warren Alston

Secretary: Zia McConnell

Members present: Laura Thomas, Nick Iosue, Ashleigh Dalton, Stewart Marshall (via phone)

Administration present: Barbara Grimm, Camy Stirling

Guest: Krystal Powell, Acadia North Star

The regular meeting of the Brevard Academy Board of Directors was called to order by the Chair at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Camy Stirling.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Consideration and approval of minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve September 21st regular meeting minutes Laura seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

PTO report:

- ! PTO will be graciously providing a taco dinner for the Middle School Core Knowledge presentation on October 22nd.
- ! There is not total for the catalog fund-raiser as of yet.
- ! Gearing up for Fall Festival which will be on November 14th.

In the future, we will need to add a report from the Booster Club. Kimberly will send Zia the emails for the leaders of those groups so that they might send their reports ahead of the Board meetings.

Teacher report: Camy Stirling

Camy introduced the 4th grade teachers, Crystal Holland and Michelle Peterson (new to the school).

Fourth grade is studying the Middle Ages and the feudal system. The students drew out of a hat to see what "class" they belonged to – Kings, queens, serfs, etc. The kings and queens were line leaders and the serfs and others had to follow. The students did not like the randomness of how they came to their lots in life!

They will be creating and building a scale model of a castle of their own design to be due on November 23rd.

On November 5th the class will be going to the Biltmore House to see a local “castle.” The cost is \$24 per student. No one has expressed that this will be a hardship for them, but if they do, Ms. Holland will let us know. PTO provides \$100 per class per semester to be used for such things as field trips.

They are also working Technology and Art on creating a special project on the illumination of the Book of Kells. Also, the students are researching animals that they think would be a good representation of them for their own Coat of Arms that they will be creating.

They will also be going to Bob Jones University to view the ancient tapestry and artifacts housed there for their study on the history of Islam. Any religion studied is done so from their place in world history. Their influence on the lives of the times, battle strategies, medicines, foods...Crystal makes a dessert to share with the class that is Muslim and made for certain holidays.

They will culminate this unit with a Middle Ages Day. A world champion caber thrower will be coming to demonstrate that day!

Here is a list of what they will be reading/studying in CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts):

- ! Scout’s Honor – personal narrative
- ! Crispin by Avi – Middle Ages (and on Nov 3rd, they will be Skyping with the author! There is a \$100 honorarium for this)
- ! Unit 7 – American Revolution

Financial Report: Krystal Powell

Krystal said that we closed out the 2014/2015 school year with \$180,845.80 in surplus. The final report will come out next week. Warren asked that June budget numbers and the report be emailed to him. When asked why it took so long to close out the last year’s budget, Krystal said that they had been waiting and waiting for an amortization table on the lease for the copiers.

The question was raised, how did we end up with so much more in our surplus cash that we thought we were going to have? It is great, but we need to understand how we were not able to anticipate this. Krystal will send the whole Board an explanation for this discrepancy by the end of the week. Some of it has to do with the fact that we budgeted conservatively: we planned on the ADM being 3% lower than last year. And we budgeted for 270 students and we have 292. We only receive funding for 289 (our 20% growth allowed by the state), so we have an additional 19 students for which we are receiving funding. Plus, that funding came in at a higher rate than budgeted. The state has not issued the ADM rate in writing, but once it does, the budget report be adjusted. It should be ready by next month’s meeting for sure.

# of students	Budget rate	Actual
270 budgeted	\$5,021.80	\$5,230.23
26 EC students	\$3,761.64	\$3,761.64

Krystal will look at the salary line and the final projections by December and make recommendations then.

Listed below are the budget items requested:

1	Line 4: Non-capitalized hardware / computers	Request to add	\$4000	Had to purchase routers and hardware for the move from Comporium to NC REN free internet (still using Comporium lines.) We have no warranty on our older computers, so want to add a little padding for repairs.
2	Line 6: Instructional Services	Request to add	\$11,000	We had no budget line for Outdoor Ed

If all recommendations are approved:

Expense will increase by	\$15,000
Net Change: Decrease net surplus by	\$15,000
Net Surplus: (after budget recommendations)	\$47,475.45

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve the budget amendments as amended to \$4000 for Line 4 (originally \$3500), and \$11,000 for Line 6 (originally \$8000). Laura seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Director report: Barbara Grimm

Enrollment:

- ! Current enrollment 292 students.
- ! 5th grade the only grade with any room if someone new applies.

Advertising:

- ! Trudy Pierron continues to send weekly articles to the T-Times about events happening at school
- ! We are still continuing our radio spots on the White Squirrel Radio. October 13th spot will be about the Groundbreaking Bash on October 17th and the purchase of the new building.

Testing:

- ! MAP testing was completed on Tuesday, September 15th.
- ! 35% of our populations scored 90% in Reading or Math. We are working hard to create an AIG program for these high achieving students.
- ! 14% in the 30% or lower range in these subjects

EC-related services:

- ! We have just completed the EC Audit that is conducted every 5 years by the state. In general, we received a lot of kudos for receiving and serving our students well.
- ! Gaps: we did have gaps where we didn't know the protocol (i.e. IEP forms) had changed. No one informed us of this change – there is no overseer for this kind of thing. Our EC director goes to monthly meetings with other EC directors in the area to try and get more information like this, but she did not know of this change. We also had verbiage

switched in our overall plan – we used the word “benchmark” and so our “goals” were not in the correct places on the forms. Also, ALL of our IEP forms have to be updated to meet this paperwork change from the state.

- ! Our goal is to improve our protocol and process – Heather Corn, Kate Shober and Barbara Grimm will be attending an EC Conference Nov 18 – 20th called “Nuts and Bolts.” This will be helpful in understanding the areas of non-compliance from the audit.
- ! There is also a Regional Consultant coming to help us get up to speed with the LEA Self-assessment (The Local Education Agency (LEA) Self-Assessment and Improvement Process was developed to support Results Driven Accountability (RDA) efforts to improve outcomes for students with disabilities). There has been a bit of a pendulum swing in the thought process for EC students. Rather than pulling them out of class to address their learning, the movement is toward full inclusion in the normal classroom. Students 3 grade levels below are still left in class. So, these students must make up their gap and remain in the classroom; quite a challenge for teacher and student.
- ! Ms. Grimm feels that the full staff needs some training on EC students to better understand and manage this full inclusion in the classrooms.
- ! The most important thing however, is that we are serving our EC students well.

Ashleigh Dalton asked if it would be possible to partner with other charter schools to see how they are doing this.

Barbara Grimm said she felt Team CFA would serve all of their schools well if they designated someone to be a Regional Director of EC. Tony would be the person to contact about this. Schools’ funding is tied to compliance, so we **MUST** be in compliance, it is just that there is ONE person designated to help schools do this. It might be a good role for Team CFA.

Teacher evaluations:

- ! Lisa Malaquin-Prey and Barbara have begun formal observations for both probationary and career teachers. Camy Stirling is observing twice a month in classrooms for fidelity to the Core Knowledge curriculum model.

Athletics:

- ! BA-CFA flag football and cross country won the Blue Ridge Mountain Conference Championship.
- ! Basketball is next, and a meeting was held on October 12th.
- ! The new Booster Club will be handling all of the concessions at the games and fundraisers that impact the school athletics.

Travel Band:

- ! Auditions have been held and Mr. Gardener is planning a trip to Nashville in the spring.

Outdoor Education:

- ! Mountain Roots is combining Environmental Education and TLC (Teams, Leadership, Character classes).

After School Program:

- ! The After School Program is in full swing and over 25 students are attending on a regular basis. 26 students are signed up as drop-ins. We have hired an additional

teacher and the students are excited about the opportunities being offered. Anchor Baptist Church has been providing us snack food when they can.

Service and Community:

- ! There will be a Pink-Out day on Oct 26th. Funds are being raised and will be donated to The Hope Chest for Breast Cancer. For each staff jar that reaches \$25, that staff member will have to kiss a pig!

Volunteer opportunities:

- ! We currently have 30-35 parent/grandparents, 3 Brevard College Students, 5 BHS students and 3 retirees coming in to volunteer on a regular basis. Trudy is tutoring 6-9 students each day for the 3 days she is here. She will be setting up a recruitment table at the fall festival and/or hosting a breakfast meeting to attract more parent volunteers/tutors.

Bus

- ! The total cost for readying the two buses for this school year was \$3,533.97. This included replacing the brakes and brake drums on both buses.
- ! The gas used for September was \$136.00

IT

- ! We have been fully on NCREN now for 3 weeks. We are still paying for phone lines, but no longer paying anything for internet usage. Our average payment per month for internet was \$825. Every piece of equipment that has been purchased is transferable for the new building. We may have to purchase additional internal units due to the size of the new building. We have two separate networks; 1 for teachers and 1 for students. This network uses z scaler for content filtering. We have access to configure this but are currently using the same filtering as the rest of the schools in the state and have not faced any problems.

Professional Development

- ! We have 5 teachers attending the workshop entitled, "Behavior Interventions that Work" on October 19th. Nonnie Cullipher will be attending, "Data Mining- How digging Deeper Can help You Discover Ways to Improve Student Achievement". Kimberly Best will begin participating in an online course entitled, Tech Tools for the 21st Century Learning from October-December. I am taking part in a Administrative Institute that contains four sessions: Improving Student and Teacher Performance, Legal Issues for Administrators, and Making Change Happen Parts 1 & 2. Heather, Kate and I will be attending the EC Conference on November 18-20. Finally, Christi Whitworth will be providing a professional development on using inquiry learning in science instruction on November 4th. We will be inviting other schools to be involved in this training.

Team CFA Report: Laura Thomas

Challenge Foundation is changing from a family oriented organization to a governance run organization. Fritz Steiger is now the CEO of the organization.

There will be changes in the annual summer conference – fewer people will be invited to attend. BA-CFA will have 5 staff members attend. Barbara asked if there would be a change in format with the display tables and the video, because it would be close to impossible to produce anything of any quality with so few people. Laura is on the committee for the conference, and said that they are looking at changing the format.

Committee Reports:

Facilities: Nick Iosue

- ! The Groundbreaking was very successful, with about 200 people in attendance. Many families came late after local soccer games were finished. WLOS was there and covered the event.
- ! The new mascot costume was a big hit!
- ! The food truck, Appalachian Chic was also very popular – Cassie Ashworth secured that for us.
- ! Charlie Garcia says they have begun the bid process and they are reaching out to local contractors.

Fund development/Marketing & Outreach

- ! Josh Leder is going to let BA-CFA use the golf course property at Glen Cannon for a 5K fundraiser run. However, we need another in-door fundraiser before the spring.
- ! Dugans Pub has offered to partner with us – once they meet their costs, all other proceeds would go to the school.

Long Range Planning and Visioning: Zia

- ! No report

Personnel: Laura/Warren

- ! No report; closed session

Board Development, Policies and Procedures: Stewart

- ! Bylaws editing still in process. After Board Training there will be some new committees added to the bylaws, hopefully by November meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- ! Barbara Grimm asked about buses for next year – we need to put this in the budget and also come up with central locations as pick-up spots. SavMore parking lot has been suggested, so we need to get approval from them, and we need another more centrally located spot in town. It means we also will need 2 buses and 2 drivers. Warren asked the question: Do we need a committee to hash out the details? Possibly.
- ! Warren spoke to a lady from NC regarding 401K and 457B retirement plans for full time staff. This would optional for them to do on their own for retirement savings.

Next Meeting:

There will be a Special Meeting held on Monday, October 26th at 3:30 in the Conference Room. There will be a Closed Session held to discuss Personnel.

The next regular meeting will take place on November 16th, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. in the Searcy Hall.

Short Break: 5 minutes

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. Zia seconded.

Motion carried. The Board entered into Closed Session at 7:24 p.m.

Motion: Nick made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Laura seconded.

Motion carried. Time: 8:09 p.m.

Action:

Motion: Nick made a motion to approve the instructional assistant position as presented by the Director. Laura seconded. Vote was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn:

Motion: Nick made a motion to adjourn. Zia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.