

Kestrel Heights School Board Meeting
November 18th, 2014
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Areas of Focus: Compliance, Finances, and Academic Achievement

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 in the Kestrel Heights Middle School at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Josephe Featherstone.

Purpose: To ensure the Outcomes in our Charter are being accomplished and that all parameters are being followed.

The following Directors were in attendance: Josephe Featherstone (Chairman), Nancy-Anne Potts (Treasurer), Tonya Hunt, Kathy Chapman (Vice Chairman), Dr. Jessica DeCuir-Gunby, Jamie Gunter, Mary Carter, Dr. Andrew Joseph, Shane McCurdy, and Micheal Abensour.

The following Directors were absent: Glenna Boston (Secretary)

Guests: Dr. Mark Tracy (Executive Director), Stephon Bowens (Board Attorney), & Melanie McCord.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment. Mr. Featherstone discussed the board establishing a pre-meeting sign-in sheet to ensure that all interested parties receive an opportunity to be heard in a timely manner at future meetings. The board also discussed limiting the comment time to two minutes per person with no tacking. The board directed Dr. Tracy to work with Attorney Bowens to develop a policy based upon this discussion.

Old Business:

The October 14th minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Shane McCurdy made a motion to approve the October 14 minutes as amended during the meeting.

Second: Nancy-Anne Potts

Vote: The October 14, 2014 Kestrel Heights Board of Director Minutes were unanimously approved.

Monthly Discussion Items:

Financials:

Nancy-Anne Potts, the board treasurer, recommended that we table the discussion until the budget is updated.

PTSO:

Dr. Tracy presented the PTSO report on behalf of Terri Barber, PTSO President. He discussed the Kestrel Food Pantry, Hawks Helping Hand, shared space clean up space, and the Jingle Fest Fair.

No Motion was made or required.

Executive Director Report:

Dr. Mark Tracy provided a monthly executive director report on student learning, finance, governance, and the strategic plan.

(1) **Student Learning:** Dr. Tracy discussed the mCLASS report for the elementary school, the ACT report, and provided an enrollment, retention, and graduation report.

(2) **Finance:** Dr. Tracy reported on financial issues including the 2013-14 audit, Tom Miller's proposal for consulting for the Kestrel Board, and the Grounds Contract.

Motion: Nancy-Anne Potts motioned that we accept the 2013-14 audit.

Seconded: Tonya Hunt

Vote: It was unanimously approved to accept the 2013-14 audit.

Dr. Tracy discussed Tom Miller's proposal for consulting with Kestrel Heights and the Board of Directors.

It was recommended that we ask Tom Miller to revise his proposal for consulting. A vote on the proposal was deferred to a later date.

(3) **Governance:** Dr. Tracy provided a discussion on several governance issues.

Ms. McCord presented her findings on the End of the Year Leave Balance Policy.

This item was tabled until more information can be collected.

Dr. Tracy discussed the salary audit and the policy he created to address salary inequities.

Dr. Tracy discussed that they are in process of hiring a Technology Director

(4) Strategic Plan update:

Dr. Tracy provided an update on how Kestrel is addressing several areas of the strategic plan including academic metrics and student performance goals, faculty and staff development and retention, enhancing school culture within and without, and infrastructure and technology.

(5) Future Proposal:

Dr. Tracy gave a recommendation to have students and/or teachers to present at the start of each board meeting.

Updates/Old Business:

Stephon Bowens provided an update on the revised by-laws. OCS made suggestions to make minor changes before they can be approved.

Stephon Bowens also provided an update on the property tax issue.

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: *Jessica DeCuir-Gunby motioned to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters G.S.143.318.11(a)(6) and to consult with our attorney G.S.143.318.11(a)(3).*

Second: Mary Carter

Vote: Unanimously approved

Closed session began at 7:50 pm

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session: Andrew Joseph made a motion at 8:25 PM to adjourn closed session and return to open session.

Second: Tonya Hunt

Vote: Unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION:

Motion: Andrew Joseph made a motion to extend meeting time past 2 hours.

Second: Mary Carter

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Motion: *Mary Carter motioned to return to closed session to discuss personnel matters G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) and to consult with our attorney G.S.143.318.11(a)(3).*

Second: Shane McCurdy

Vote: Unanimous

Closed session reconvened at 8:26 pm.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board of Directors discussed personnel issues with Dr. Tracy.

The Board of Directors consulted with the Board Attorney regarding lease related matters.

The Board of Directors discussed a potential legal claim and discussed providing the executive committee with the authority to resolve the matter within specified parameters.

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session: Jamie Gunter made a motion at 9:35 PM to adjourn closed session and return to open session.

Second: Tonya Hunt

Vote: Unanimously approved

OPEN SESSION:

Motion: Jessica DeCuir-Gunby made a motion to compensate staff at a minimum level comparable to that of the banded level of similar positions in the Durham Public Schools beginning December 1, 2014.

Second: Jamie Gunter

Vote: 9 approvals and 1 recusal (Andrew Joseph)

Motion: Jessica DeCuir-Gunby made a motion to retain the services of Cassidy-Turley.

Second: Tonya Hunt

Vote: Unanimously passed

Motion: Jessica DeCuir-Gunby motioned to give the executive committee authority to resolve the potential legal claim within specified parameters.

Second: Andrew Joseph

Vote: Unanimously passed

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion: Shane McCurdy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM.

Second: Andrew Joseph

Vote: Unanimously approved.