

**CORPORATION FOR EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

Robin Henderson, presiding: Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Members present: Robin Henderson, Kay Smith, and Tim Allen in-person at the school. Lori Stokes and Gary Leonard virtually through Zoom.

Absent:none

Staff: Dr. Tom Miller

Ms. Henderson welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. A Quorum was established. The Agenda was approved. MOTION: Tim Allen, Seconded: Kay Smith Vote: Approved by unanimous consent.

The minutes for the September 8, 2020 Board meeting were approved. MOTION: Gary Leonard, Seconded: Tim Allen Vote: Approved by unanimous consent.

II. Public Comment

Public comment was available for anyone who wished to speak. Denise Gunter, an SWA parent, presented her thoughts on reopening school and allowing students back on site. Ms. Gunter noted that she believed SWA was doing a good job with the virtual learning. She also stated that she currently works at St Mary Magdalene School, and they have been back in school (students and teachers) since August 20. Covid precautions have been put in place and things have been going very well. Ms. Gunter encouraged the board to consider bringing back students as soon as possible. The board thanked her for her comments and stated that they would be taken into consideration during the next phase of decisions.

III. Head of School and Transition Update

Ms. Henderson stated that a new Head of School has accepted the position and is eager to begin. The search process for the Head of School position was posted in 5 different charter school associations and included 22 candidates from 6 states. A search team cut the group of candidates down to 8, and then additional round of interviews and surveys brought it down to the final 3. Participants in the process on behalf of SWA included board members, teachers, and administrators.

Kay Smith made a motion to approve the hiring of Dr. John (Jay) Schulz as SWA's new Head of School. She stated how excited the board is to welcome Dr. Schulz to SWA and is very confident in his plans for moving forward. Gary Leonard seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous consent.

Dr Schulz, on Zoom, was then given a couple minutes to introduce himself.

IV. Return to School Timeline

Dr. Miller provided information on other charter schools in the area that have brought students and teachers onto campus. The packet of information provided regarding bringing students and teacher back was reviewed and discussed. October 5th and 6th were amended to allow for asynchronous working. This is to allow the teachers to set up their classrooms and provide remote instruction or assignments ahead of time to focus on getting classrooms ready. October 21, 2020, is the decision date for the date students will return to campus. At this time, the target date for student return is November 14, 2020. A return to sports timeline is still in development and will be presented at the next board meeting.

V. Presentation of Head of School Report

Dr Miller presented the Head of School report. Primary points of the discussion:

- ADM (average daily members/students) is now 774. The school's budget was compiled off an expected ADM of 870; the budget will be updated to reflect the current numbers.
- School graduation guidelines have been updated in the Handbook. The state's minimum credits to graduate is 22; SWA has decided upon a minimum 26 credits to graduate. Adjustments may be made on an individual basis if facts warrant. SWA's graduation rate is currently 88%.
- Student discipline processes are being developed and enhanced. The school has two programs used for monitoring online behavior- Go Guardian and Bark. In the first 16 days of school, students went onto 435,000 websites, and approximately 2,200 were blocked.
- In process of reviewing other curriculum (math was previously reviewed and a new curriculum purchased.)
- Establishing a school-wide orientation plan for new teachers.
- Establishing a school-wide formative assessment process.

VI. Finance Report

As part of the Finance Report, the following expenses were presented for approval:

- Go Guardian- \$4,000 for enhanced functionality of Go Guardian to assist with communication and escalation of student discipline.
- Acadia Northstar- \$27,000 for one year. Student services support for the PowerSchool application. Would need to tell them in March 2021 if we do not want to auto renew.
- Graduation venue- \$4,000 (scheduled for June 2, 2021)
- Lawncare monthly contract with Greenscape
- Steve Joyner Consulting contract- IT and other technology support through June 2021.
- October staff \$350 bonus- funds were received from the state for a teacher bonus. Decision made to offer bonus to all employees.

Motion made by Kay Smith to approve the above expenses/contracts. Seconded by Tim Allen. Approved by unanimous consent.

Significant discussion took place regarding the school's athletic field. Bids were received to enhance the current field within the car rider loop. After much discussion, the Greenscape bid was approved pending assessment of the field, current grading, etc. The contract would be signed and the project moved forward with only once conditions were assessed, compared to the contract bid, and formally instructed to move forward. Decision was made that the funding for the field would be from Lions Crusade. Motion made by Tim Allen to approve the athletic field contract pending assessment and instruction to move forward. Seconded by Gary Leonard. Approved by unanimous consent.

VII. Next Board Meeting

Ms. Henderson stated the next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. This meeting will be a special board meeting held via Zoom.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn. MOTION: Tim Allen Seconded: Kay Smith Vote: Approved by unanimous consent.

Robin Henderson adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Robin Henderson, President

DATE