

Neuse Charter School Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2017

Board Members Present:

Dawn Dixon, Chair
Paul Worley, Vice Chair
Robbie Taylor, Treasurer
Martha Andre, Secretary
Nichole Booker
Jason Cummings
Michelle Denning
Rodney Dunn
Dave Neville, Ex-Officio NCSF Treasurer
Kevin Gomez-Gonzalez, SGA President

Board Members Absent:

Tony Gupton, Past Chair
Chris Johnson
Jimmy Lloyd

Call to Order and Agenda Approval [6:00 pm]

Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. All board members were given the opportunity to respond to the Conflict of Interest statement.

Motion by Worley, seconded by Taylor, to approve the agenda. Passed unanimously at 6:02 pm.

Celebrations & Recognitions [6:02 pm]

Student Showcase:

- Core Value Awards for Respect:
 - K-2: Matthias Soika - K
 - 3-5: Mary Wiggs – 4th
 - 6-8: Jayce Denton – 7th
 - 9-12: Bonnie Prince – 12th
- Core Value Awards for Climate:
 - K-2: Lucas Dimoff - K
 - 3-5: Jordan Sullivan – 5th
 - 6-8: Sabrina Brownlee – 6th
 - 9-12: Abby Lampe – 12th

Public Comments [6:06 pm]

None.

Approval of Minutes [6:07 pm]

Motion by Worley, seconded by Taylor, to approve October minutes. Motion passed unanimously at 6:08pm.

Booster Club Report [6:08 pm]

None.

SGA Report [6:08 pm]

Kevin Gomez-Gonzalez reported that the SGA is beginning the organization of Homecoming, Prom and ongoing volunteer work. Since the last board meeting, NCS had a successful Red Ribbon week and Thanksgiving food and toiletry drive for the NCS Angel Tree.

With the success of the Pep Club Powder Puff Tournament, SGA has been looking into hosting another such event run by students for basketball season in another effort to encourage school spirit and collect donations. Details are yet to be cleared up but the interest is there and being worked on.

Lastly, SGA is organizing a student run Leadership Retreat where up to forty students will participate in a weekend long event in order to foster positive leadership qualities in a unique environment. Details on this event are also still yet to be finalized.

Executive Director's Report [6:10 pm]

- Currently have one employment vacancy in 8th grade math.
- Academic Redesign Initiative discussion of proposed logo:
 - Branding of the initiative: NCS PLUS [Performance Learning Underscoring Success]
 - Students + Teachers + Parents + Community = students graduating with proficiency in all NCS Graduation Competencies

Dixon suggestion that the rays of the lightbulb in the logo tie into the four graduation competencies.

Pullium turned over the report to Silver, Dean of Academics. Silver discussed the many achievements of staff and students for the first semester of 2017-18. She further noted the vast amounts of opportunities for PD on and off campus. Lastly, Silver presented preliminary benchmark results for the first and second quarters and discussed how the tests were created and evaluated. She is assisting teachers in how to help improve their teaching strategies in order to improve student learning.

Booker asked about the creation of benchmark. Silver explained she is using School Net as a tool that pulls older EOG/EOC tests and can mimic those released test questions. Teachers meet with Silver to prepare the tests. After tests, teachers sit with Silver to evaluate objectives to see what strategies are working and what needs improvement.

Silver also explained that NCS has the ability to track the students with EVAAS student data.

Taylor asked if this help us predict what the SCHOOL will score at the end of the year as NCS is barely a B this year. Silver explained that NCS should see a 3-5% growth with the change the state has made not requiring 8th grades to take both the 8th grade Math EOG as well as the Math 1 exam.

Cummings asked if NCS is providing individual tutoring for those students scoring Level 1 and 2 on the benchmarks. Silver confirmed that this is being offered during cougar time. Additionally, many teachers also have before and after school tutoring sessions.

Dunn asked if there were additional snapshot tools to show teachers right where students are and Silver explained that she is providing EVAAS training to that our teachers know how to use that tool to work with each student's needs.

Cummings commended those teachers who relayed the benchmark scores to parents in a timely manner.

Dunn asked if parents felt as if these tests are beneficial or "over-testing"? Silver said the bulk of feedback from parents is positive. They like the transparency and the ability of NCS to target students before they fail. Additionally, several ELA teachers are asking to start benchmarks in January instead of waiting until next year.

Dixon reminded everyone to use different types of assessments in order to show students that you can find success even if you don't test well. Their worth shouldn't be tied to just a number between 1-5.

Gomez-Gonzalez reported being happy to be exposed to the types of questions and situation that students will be faced with during the actual exams. This practice will help students prepare with strategies for future testing. Additionally, explaining to students the purpose behind some of the testing [stamina building exercises, for example] might help students be more receptive.

Pullium reminded the board that the topic for the Round Table this Thursday is Curriculum and Calendar. Additionally, Guidance and Officer Lee will lead a session on cyber security just prior to the Round Table.

Consent Agenda [6:46 pm]

None

Standing Committees

Finance Committee [6:46 pm]

Taylor welcomed Dunn back to the board. Taylor reported we have been removed from the financial non-compliance status. He presented the condensed budget for November. Based on current ADM, there is a projected \$186k surplus.

The Finance Committee agreed that the Facilities Sub Committee should fall under the umbrella of Finance. The Facilities Sub-Committee is working on the removal of modular for construction and working with town of Smithfield for electric and water turn off. Parents have volunteered to help us starting December 17 and continuing through the holiday break. Taylor encouraged

the board to consider combining elementary and middle into a single building in future building models.

Neville reminded the board that the committee was successful in getting Vanguard to save NCS about \$17k in the removal of the modular. The committee is currently trying to firm up a lease on existing modulars.

Personnel Committee [6:51 pm]

Closed session items.

Academic Affairs Committee [6:51 pm]

Dixon thanked Silver for her report on the PLUS design and reported that the Academic Affairs Committee has finalized the following four graduation competencies:

- Communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through written and spoken language.
- Apply independent critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address complex issues.
- Use advanced computational skills to analyze data.
- Evaluate and value diversity to effectively collaborate.

Pullium explained the steps taken to come to these competencies including meetings with various committees, sub-groups, and ultimately the full NCS staff.

Gomez-Gonzalez questioned the phase out and teaching of these goals. Dixon explained stage 1 is setting the big goals where teachers will then create sub goals that will teach these competencies within grade levels. Dixon identified standard assignments linked to specific grades with specific rubrics tied to competencies. Pullium added if a student completes a competencies ahead of schedule that provides opportunity to push for mastery in those areas.

Booker was concerned about the wording of the 4th bullet. After discussion,

Motion by Dunn, seconded by Worley, to accept the fourth competency as “Evaluate and value diversity to effectively collaborate.”

After further discussion including confirmation from Dixon that NCS has time to wait and launch in January, Dunn rescinded the motion at 7:17pm.

Resource Development [7:16 pm]

Taylor noted that the Resource Development description is in the board packet.

In the area of fundraising, the Reverse Raffle is scheduled for 2/23, and Yankee Candle earned approximately \$8,000 for the school.

The Resource Committee is continuing to discuss how the Board should go after money for the capital campaign to fund our future building project. There was also discussion about bond usage and how that works with NCS.

Neville reminded the board that NCS needs \$500k for next building projects. He is talking with Vanguard about extending the lease until 2020 with a building goal at that point.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Cummings, to approve the Resource Committee description for the bylaws. Passed unanimously at 7:22 pm.

Pullium suggested moving Personnel to an Ad Hoc Committee as it only meets as needed. Dixon asked to discuss this in Executive Committee.

Board Development [7:22 pm]

None.

Old Business [7:23 pm]

None.

New Business [7:23 pm]

Pullium presented a contract to continue the school psychological services with 3-C Family Services. This contract is already allotted in the budget. Motion by Dunn, seconded by Worley, to accept the contract. Passed unanimously at 7:25pm.

Pullium presented a request for a storage shed to allow staff somewhere to store items during construction as well as props for the arts program and overage for facility's needs. This would be a 12'x12' building.

Dixon noted concern over storing furniture without a climate controlled building. Taylor explained this building would be insulated without skylights. This is the best option from what we were quoted, and the insulation should absorb most of the moisture but it's not guaranteed for all. There will be no electricity to the building. It will be locked. Since the building will be set up as a temporary storage, it will be put on concrete blocks and able to be moved if need be.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Dunn, to approve the purchase of the storage building. Passed unanimously at 7:31pm.

Pullium recommended a December bonus for \$250 for each staff member in recognition of hard work done thus far. Dunn challenged Pullium to bring an additional end of year bonus to the March meeting with the full compensation proposal for 2018-19 in February to line up with contract negotiations.

Motion by Andre, seconded by Booker, to approve a \$250/staff bonus to be paid in December. Passed unanimously at 7:34pm.

Pullium reported on her interview with N&O about our relations with Johnston Co. She was able to discuss the community and the chamber relations as well.

Dixon mentioned the December meeting schedule, and the board decided to change the December meeting to December 19 at 6pm.

Motion by Worley, seconded by Taylor, to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) for Personnel and Administrative discussion. Passed unanimously at 7:38pm.

Motion by Lloyd, seconded by Worley, to reconvene in Open Session. Passed unanimously at 7:59pm.

Motion by Lloyd, seconded by Worley, to accept the Executive Committees' affirmation of the Executive Director's personnel actions. Passed unanimously at 8:01pm.

Motion by Dunn, seconded by Taylor, to adjourn. Passed unanimously at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Andre