

Hoosier Academy Board Minutes

December 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Board President John Marske at 5:35PM, Tuesday, December 16, 2014. Board members present: John Marske, John Luta, Dynelle Pelsy-Bowyer, Stacie Porter Bigler and Lesley Neff.

Staff Present: Dr. Byron Ernest, Head of School; Cindy Wright, K12 Employee; Kathy Coe, Operations Manager; Patti Heron, K-8 VS Academic Administrator; Dominique Franklin, High School VS Academic Administrator; Dr. Chris Chalker, High School/Middle school HY Academic Administrator; Jennifer Lyons, teacher; Sara Brooks, Title I teacher; Liz Breeden, teacher; Rachael Borrelli, Community Coordinator; Lyndsay Sheridan, teacher; Brian Nash, teacher; Paul Runyan, counselor. Also in attendance: Robert Scott, Board Attorney, Leanne Lamb, learning coach; Melissa Runyan, citizen; George Giltner, new board member. Virtual attendance: Stacey Kennon, teacher; Amy Weber, teacher; Tyla Hudon, parent; Jenny Kendall, K12 Director of Related Services, Russ Roselle Vice President of K12 Finance, and Nancy Hsiung, k12 Finance.

Approval of October 2014 Minutes:

John Luta motioned to approve the October minutes. Dynelle Pelsy-Bowyer seconded. The motion passed.

Adoption of December Agenda:

John Marske added that in Board Development, Nadina McFann would be sharing a calendar for the 2015 Board calendar dates. John Luta motioned to approve the December agenda. Lesley Neff seconded. The motion passed.

Oral Communication:

High school virtual teacher Lyndsay Sheridan expressed concerns about teacher responsibilities and performance.

Porter Bigler called a motion to work with Robert Scott, and a subcommittee to look into teacher concern, teacher student ratio, and other reporting requirements that have been brought to the board's attention, and work with the administrative of K12 leadership team to get to the bottom of this. John Luta seconded the motion. All approved.

Marske wants a formal report from this committee for the February meeting.

Academic Plan-USA Test Prep

Dr. Chris Chalker and Dominique Franklin

Dominique shared that they are using this program to help with end of course assessments in English 10, Biology and Algebra, also in Math Lab and English Lab as a benchmark throughout the course.

Presented data for benchmark #2 which was at the 12 week mark. Dominique shared the data for the virtual high school. Dr. Chalker shared the data for the hybrid high school. Growth is too low in the hybrid, and they are looking at how to clean it roster due to transfers and withdrawals.

English 10 data is comparing everyone, virtual and hybrid students; there was not a separate diagnostic for hybrid or for lab. Biology comparison is doing great and seeing lots of growth in both virtual and hybrid.

Stacey Kennon virtual high school English teacher shared how she uses the data in her classroom. Really looked into how to service all students with their academic team leader. Past Saturday sessions have had about 53 students for four sessions with active participants. Took ECA and aligned with standards so that all areas are covered in Class Connect and through small groups.

SWAG

Dr. Ernest

We had the opportunity to apply to be a pilot project through a K12 initiative, and been selected to do focused tutoring with a students, face to face, where they come to us, using USA Test Prep, released test items, K12 curriculum, ALEKS which is an adaptive to let us know where a student is at, and LearnBop.

SWAG will begin second semester, in Bloomington, Indianapolis Learning Centers and Merrillville. Rachael Borrelli surveyed our parents and had over 200 responses saying they want to be part of the service. SWAG will be offered one time a week, and looking at two days a week for Indianapolis. Looking at 8th-12th graders- all 8th, 9th, and 10th graders, and open to 11th and 12th graders who have not passed ECA's.

There are teachers in place for our team: Indy, Greg Blatz (math) and Lacy Spears (ELA); Merrillville, Adrienne Elizondo (math) and Lynn McCoy (ELA); Bloomington Erin Rollen (math) and Marissa Northam (ELA). Will be expanding the teams to one additional teacher, and Adrienne Elizondo is acting as our lead for the project.

The K12 covered costs are: Teachers will be given stipends for program, reimbursed for the mileage, rental of facility sites, and gas cards given to families who qualify, or need bus passes. Total cost is a bit higher because we will be providing incentives for students. The program is called SWAG; students working for academic growth, and they will get some swag each time that they come. The things that are going to be measured are: retention, achievement, and satisfaction. Our mobility rate is 67%, so we think reaching out and giving some of that personal contact will help our retention. State test results will help with achievement and will be huge for our students.

Marske confirmed when the program will begin, next semester, and asked if the board could see attendance, and performance for upcoming meetings.

Marske shared that the cost will impact our deficit and asked K12 finance Nancy Hsiung and Russ Roselle how the expenses will look; if the cost does come through our income statement, could we at least see that broken out somewhere. Nancy Hsiung and Russ Roselle will get back to us regarding how the accounting treatment and how it will be handled.

Pelsy- Bowyer motioned to approve moving forward with the program with clarification on the finance side. Luta seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Hybrid Tracks

Dr. Ernest

Proposed to the board the hybrid tracks for next school: K-6 current enrollment supports a single track, so we would suggest we have a Thursday/Friday track to start first semester beginning the 2015-2016 school year. We would build enrollment to have both tracks, but start knowing that you are going to be on a Thursday/Friday track. This allows us to use one academic administrator, until we go to two tracks, or keep the one academic administrator but hire an assistant and work between the two tracks.

Current enrollment for 7-12 supports one track, but would want to get enrollment to support two tracks because we know that we can support more kids. Enrollment for 2015-2016 would start with a one day track on Monday/Tuesday, and if enrollment grows to a certain level, you go to a Thursday/Friday track. That again would enable us to use one academic administrator, until you go to two tracks, or we get to have an assistant.

Luta, Porter Bigler, and Pesly-Bowyer shared that having teacher and parent input is important.

Marske shared that if we decide to start with a single track, with the goal of two tracks, if we budget and assume we are going to have two tracks, we are going to go over the budget and not get reimbursed from the state. We need to know how that is going to impact our budget.

Cindy Wright asked if we can bring this issue back to the board in January with those answers, all board members said yes.

Dr. Chalker presented on research about moving 6th graders to middle school vs. keeping them in the elementary. Compared Lawrence and Warren Townships schools because they both took out the 6th grade from the middle school buildings the same year, and because both of our buildings fall in their districts. Warren took out 6th grade and created a 5th and 6th building, and Lawrence took 6th grade and put them in their K-5 buildings. 2011-2012 was a transition year for both districts, and every year Warren went up, but took a slight dive in 2013-2014. Overall, Warren's decision is paying off. Lawrence and they went up every year. Our data shows that we are right with them or higher. Discipline is another variable to look at; 6th graders that are in middle school have higher disciplinary fractions in higher grades than 6th graders who are in an elementary school when they get into higher grades.

2015-2016 School Calendar

Dr. Ernest

Shared the starting point for the school calendar for next school year; regardless of the track schedule. The first nine weeks will be 44 days; 46 days in the second and third nine weeks; and 45 days in the fourth nine weeks. A total of 181 days in the calendar. The first nine weeks will allow for a three day teacher training and an onboarding program for new families one week before the first day of school led by teachers. New teachers will be able to work with a veteran teacher as well during that time. This will allow for everyone to start the school year on the same playing field.

Luta, Pesly- Bowyer and Porter Bigler moved that we postpone this matter until teacher and learning coaches have input.

Enrollment

Kathy Coe

Provided an update on enrollment for December. HAVS; 3784, Indy; 278, combined total 4062.

Community

Rachael Borrelli

Gave update on website hits, and walked through some of the tutorial videos that are available on the website, and families are taking advantage of these videos. In January will be implementing Strong Start; mini expos the first week which will include a mock lab, information about SWAG, school ID's, free and reduced lunch forms, collect any forms that need to be turned in, and information on Life Line. Life Line will be online office hours for learning coaches to use to ask questions twice a week. Borrelli will also continue new parent orientations throughout the month of January before the February 2, 2015 count day. Current learning coaches will also be invited to the expos as well as the Life Line office hours.

Highlighted the December community events; ice skating, gingerbread make and take, the talent show, ice cream social for blue ribbons, and winter dance.

Porter Bigler mentioned tying community events to the bigger picture of what is working and what is not. Borrelli suggested offering a quick survey for parents to complete at the events.

Marske also mentioned that we won't be identifying students individually, but would like to see their overall performance. Cindy Wright said that K12 could get a report that highlights a student without identifying who they are.

Compliance

Kathy Coe

Gave update on the state reports- all are up to date and a few are waiting to clean up. Upcoming Form9 and 100R are due to the state in January. Ball State reports are the 15th of every month. Will need to get with finance to get the new reporting in the same format that Ball State is requesting.

Marske commented that if we do get with Nancy from finance to report in the Ball State format that he would like to see it presented in the same format.

Personnel

Kathy Coe

Gave update on new personnel, a new 6th grade teacher at the hybrid and a new virtual English teacher. One on medical leave and one who just returned from medical leave. One teacher resigned without notice.

Financials

Nancy Hsuing

Reviewed the vouchers for the virtual and hybrid, discussing both October and November. Nancy highlighting the big expenses and reoccurring costs for each school as well as what the fee was for.

Reviewed and discussed the November financial summaries for the virtual and hybrid school. Shared projected cost from last year; and is waiting for the SPED cost to be confirmed before entering it into the summary.

Marske wanted to reiterate the point that the state is not going to mind if we under budget and I think we need to be more conservative in our numbers so we are not in this position going forward. This is a budgeting issue that we need to address and looking at enrollment, and a good explanation for the board would be to explain how the set the budget and enrollment.

Russell, K12 finance proposed that since he will be out for the January meeting in person, he can take the board through the budgeting process and we can discuss where the board wants to have reviews and we can schedule for marketing involvement.

John Luta motioned to accept the Financial Reports for audit, as well as approved the October and November Accounts Payable Vouchers as presented. Stacie Porter- Bigler seconded. The motion passed.

Insperty

John Marske

Highlighted the change in the medical benefits for staff. Shared that premiums going from 8% to 10% increase, but we are sharing the increase of the premiums 50/50 of what the employee is going to bear and what we are going to bear. This is old business that had been taken care of, but wanted everyone to know this is what we did.

Related Services

Jenny Kendall-K12 National Director of Special Program

Discussed the usage of K12's related services contract template, which is really about the actual forms we would use with your approval to contract with those folks who provide services (i.e., speech and occupational therapy) to our students in needs. K12's contract protects and the student and the school.

By using the K12 contract, it also comes with additional safeguards; we would track all licensures, insure that they have a background check, and show that they have liability insurance.

Porter Bigler and Luta would like for Robert Scott to review before making a decision at the next board meeting.

Board Development

Nadina McFann

Presented the board meeting dates for 2015; the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 5:30PM.

Porter Bigler moved to approve the board meeting dates for 2015 as presented, Marske seconded. The motion passed.

Presented The Teacher Spotlight; Corey Berry 8th grade virtual history teacher, and Jennifer Clark high school math virtual teacher.

Introduced new board member, George Giltner, business owner of FIRSTSTEP Robotics camp. He studied Electrical Engineering Technology and Technology Education at Purdue University.

Marske shared that he, Luta and Nadina had an hour conversation with George and liked his background. And based on our conversation that we have had, we are ready to bring this to a vote. But if you need a chance to follow up with us, we can do that.

Porter Bigler, as a member of board of directors, moved to accept George Giltner as a new Hoosier Academy School Board Member. Luta seconded. The motion passed.

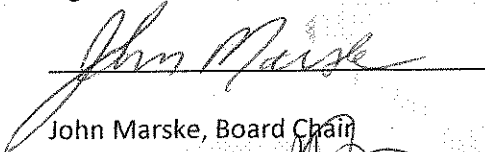
Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.

Next Board Meeting: January 27, 2015.

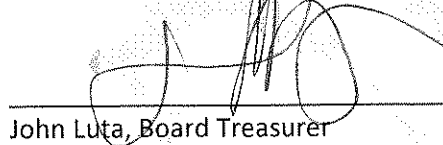
Respectfully submitted,

Nadina McFann

Signatures for approval of December 16, 2014 Minutes:



John Marske, Board Chair



John Luta, Board Treasurer

Lesley Neff, Board Secretary

Stacie Porter Bilger, Board Member



George Giltner, Board Member