

# MINUTES

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 27, 2021

AMY RICHARDS & ANDY FAUGHT, CO-CHAIRS

**Members in Attendance:** Melissa Burton, Carnetta Dansbury, Andy Faught, Jay Ferguson, Richard Frank, Rob Laird, Mara Naylor, Amy Richards, Amy Liz Riddick, Patrick Thomas, Charles Webb, and Allison Wootson

**Staff in Attendance:** Suzie Browning, Elizabeth Clay, Marsha Edwards, Stephanie Jarrett-Thorpe, Jim Leckrone, and Chris Reynolds

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### **Call to Order:**

Co-Chair Amy Richards called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

**Executive Session:** The meeting began with an Executive Session for which Stephanie and Jim were asked to log out of the Zoom meeting momentarily. Marsha summarized the FY21-22 budget presented today; Co-Chair Amy Richards made a motion to approve the first Council Action described below:

**On the recommendation of the Interim VP of Schools, Chris Reynolds, and MOBC CEO, Marsha Edwards,**

**the enclosed budget for the 2022 School Year is submitted to the School Advisory Council for approval.**

Upon approval, the Council's action will be presented to the MOBC Board of Directors for ratification.

Co-Chair Amy Richards moved that the proposed budget be approved by the Council, which was seconded by Charles Webb, and the Council voted 100% in favor to approve.

Stephanie and Jim were then invited to rejoin the Zoom meeting, and the last Council Action requiring a vote read: The second Council Action to be voted on read:

**On the recommendation of the Interim VP of Schools, Chris Reynolds, and after analysis by the VP and Co-chairs,**

**the cost of the central administrative and executive support provided by Martha O'Bryan Center's administrative and operational teams shall be allocated to the schools at a rate not to exceed 3.25% of BEP funding for the 2021-22 school year.**

The proposed increase in salaries for the two principals, along with administrative support, was given great analysis, and included research into similar positions with pay in the mid-upper range, and performance evaluations, the size of each school, and the number of staff members in roles of support. These numbers are included in the FY21-22 budget presented today. Co-Chairs Andy and Amy supported the decision; Amy made the motion to approve this second Council Action, then it was seconded by Allison Wootson, with unanimous approval in the vote to pass the motion.

**On the recommendation of the Interim VP of Schools, Chris Reynolds, and MOBC CEO Marsha Edwards, and after analysis and review of the bids received**

**we request acceptance and approval of the proposal by Wise Bus Company for the 2022 and 2023 school years. The board further delegates Marsha Edwards, CEO, to execute the contract with WISE subject to final review by the corporation's legal advisors.**

**Contract Terms**

**2-year contract with 3 one-year renewals at MOBC discretion Route cost is \$395 - \$444 per route per day over a five-year term Annual Cost \$940,000 - \$1,056,000 which includes 3% annual increases. Total fee varies based on number of routes.**

Chris gave an overview of his in-depth conversations with the transportation competitors. Amy made the motion to approve the third Council Action, then seconded by Andy, and all were in favor for Marsha to sign the new transportation contract with the Wise Bus Company.

This vote concluded the Executive Session and the East End Prep and Explore! Community School principals invited to join the meeting and give their prospective reports.

**Explore End of the Year Report, given by Stephanie Jarrett-Thorpe**

The last day of school was Wednesday, May 26, 2021, with a 100% re-opening in the fall with all students. MAP data was reviewed and demonstrated growth for both virtual and in-person students. Reading instruction was an overall strength with reading scores outpacing math in all grades with the exception of kindergarten. (Grade K had the highest overall scores for both reading - 69% above norm, and math - 74% above norm.) We are starting to see more representation in both growth *and* achievement across our subgroups. There are more African American, Hispanic, mixed race, and low-income students scoring at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile marker. Our ELL student population is also increasing. These students are not showing growth on their in-class assessments and need more support in the general education classroom. As feared, inconsistent

attendance in class across subjects and inconsistent work completion for some of our virtual students was observed.

Overall, the academic year demonstrated attendance at 90% with enrollment of 537 students (Day One goal was 580); the TNReady Test Participation showed a total of 93%; the student attrition rate was less than 6%, and the staff retention was 89%. 134 Explore students are enrolled in the upcoming summer program, beginning Monday, June 7, 2021, and Saturday School is slated for the fall and spring of next school year.

*East End Prep End of the Year Report, given by Jim Leckrone*

Jim reported the current enrollment at 862 with an anticipated enrollment of 849 students for the 2021-2022 school year. This school year reflected a 95% staff retention rate. The in-person TCAP state testing reflected 97% participation rate.

Summer Programming headlines 60 K-2 grade students enrolled for the weeks of in-person instruction (with a focus on phonics and basic math instruction). A six-week virtual program for grades 3-8 has a total enrollment of 110 kids (taught in small groups of five students), and the focus will be on reading and math learning recovery.

Priorities for the coming school year include adding key learning positions provide extra support to Tier 1 core instruction and deliver small group instruction to those students in need of fundamental skill development. Secondly, an investment in rigorous curriculum such as Amplify Science, Core Knowledge Language Arts, and Achievement First Navigator ensures that every student will access engaging grade level content every day. Last, because school was so irregular during the pandemic, school leaders will attend prestigious development courses such as Relay Graduate School and the BES Lens Fellowship in a concentrated effort to provide high level professional development

The meeting was called to a close by Amy and adjourned at 9:05 am.