

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

OF

NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS-MESA

November 10, 2020

Held Virtually

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Teresa Wales, Ronrico Miller, BJ Pennington, John Tomasson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Sharon Miller,

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Vicki Dry, Secretary, Jessica Friedermann, Robert Rodenbaugh, Jennifer Pennington, Tara Bittinger

A public meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Noah Webster Schools-Mesa, an Arizona non-profit corporation (the “Corporation”), was held virtually at 4:30 P.M. A quorum being present, and the meeting having been duly noticed and called, the meeting was called to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 13, 2020 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2020 Board meeting. Director S. Tomasson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Pennington seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with Director Tomasson, Director Wales, Director Pennington and Director R. Miller voting to approve.

2. Review the Internally Generated Financial Statements, Budget to Actual Report and Supporting Documents

The Board was presented with the 9/30/20 internally generated Financial Statements, Budget to Actual, Budget to Actual Discussion and supporting documentation. Discussion took place addressing lower enrollment and the lack of various funding programs due to COVID. The CFO reviewed the PPP Loan and additional funding available through the Enrollment Stabilization Grant. The re-opening of the on-site aftercare program and the move to the National Food Lunch Programs “Seamless Option” was also discussed as ways the school is trying to enhance revenues.

3. Initial Benchmark Testing Results & Benchmark Testing Schedule

Principal Friedermann presented the Board with the updated Benchmark Testing Schedule and explained that due to the need to address benchmarking for on-line learners and the fact that the start to the new school year was delayed, benchmark testing was also delayed. All benchmarking is still compliant with the State’s requirements.

She also reviewed the initial benchmarks that were taken and discussed the results noting that it seems apparent that on-line students are receiving help in some form during the testing. She explained that e-mails with directions on the importance of students taking the test on their own with help from the coach only to keep students focused, was sent to the on-line parents. Teachers are also reminding parents of this.

4. Enrollment

The Board was presented with updated enrollment information for 11/5/20 with a breakdown of on-line and in-person students. Enrollment was discussed and what the school is currently doing to attract and retain students.

5. COVID-19 Status Update

Jessica Friedermann provided the Board with a copy of the Maricopa County COVID-19 Dashboard: Updated 11/5/20 based on data from the week of 10/18/20. She reviewed the changes to both the COVID numbers and the changes with the guidelines for closure from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Health.

Also discussed were modifications currently in place referencing the school's mask policy, keeping students within their own cohort as much as possible, seating charts and disinfecting for times they are not in their own cohort and detailed health reviews and contact tracing.

Jennifer Pennington, HR Director, went into detail regarding the school's Health Director's student monitoring program, the HR Department's staff monitoring program and the coordination of both with the Maricopa County Health Department, Arizona Health Services Department and in some cases with other jurisdictions. She reviewed the intensive contact tracing protocol that has been put in place and the amount of time and effort it takes to ensure that this protocol is handled properly at all times. Ms. Pennington went on to commend Cyndi Stumer, DBH on her amazing efforts in controlling the spread of COVID in the school and for her close communication with all outside agencies. She indicated that we had received accolades from these outside agencies on our protocol and its implementation.

6. Contingency Plans

The Principal explained to the Board that due to rising COVID numbers, we couldn't be sure as to whether we would be required to return to 100% on-line learning or if we were, for how long. It is for that reason that the school has already begun a process with the Fruth Group to ready as many additional laptops, adding required programs and firewalls, as we might need to utilize as loaner lap tops if we were forced to go back to 100% on-line. In addition, the teachers have been trained on Microsoft Teams and have been tasked with preparing on-line videos and material in case of a stop to in-person learning.

7. Next Steps

The school will be sending a survey to on-line parents only asking if they are wanting to remain on-line or transition to in-person for second semester. This information is crucial in planning classroom availability and teaching staff. Principal Rodenbaugh explained his current project of utilizing a teacher to do a combo class of 1st and 2nd graders whose parents no longer wanted to stay on-line but there weren't enough students for either grade to warrant a separate teacher and classroom. It's this type of "out of the box" thinking that may be necessary to accommodate the return of some of the on-line students to on-site learning.

Director Tomasson asked if the school could survey parents to see what their experience has been this first semester with the school, teachers and administration and ask what they would like to see changed.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements and the next Board meeting date was set for December 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2020



Vicki Dry, Secretary