MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

OF

NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS-MESA

March 1, 2023

Held Virtually

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Vicki Dry, Secretary, Jessica Friedermann, Robert Rodenbaugh, 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.

- Approval of the Minutes of the January 17, 2023 Board Meeting

  The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Board meeting. Director Tomasson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director R. Miller seconded the motion.

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

- Specific Matters to be Considered

  - Review Internally Generated 12/31/23 Financial Statements, Budget to Actual Reporting and Related Documentation

    Vicki Dry had provided the Board with all the related financial information prior to the meeting to allow the Board time to review, in depth, the statements and supporting documentation. After review, there were no further questions.

  - Approve and Adopt the FY23-24 School Calendar

    The Board was provided with a proposed FY23-24 School Calendar. Director Tomasson asked to have the highlights of any changes explained as well as information presented on who had input in the proposed calendar.

Jessica Friedermann told the Board that the school's Leadership Team (Vicki Dry, Jessica Friedermann, Robert Rodenbaugh, Jennifer Pennington and Tara Bittinger), the Director of School Events and the Attendance/Student Records Director met to compile the calendar. Continuing, she pointed out the following proposed Calendar changes:

i. A 5 day break it October for Fall break instead of 2 days we currently have
ii. Keep the Thanksgiving break as is.
iii. Instead of Christmas Break starting December 16 through January 2nd, have it start on December 21 and go through Jan 7
iv. At Easter, instead of taking only March 29 off, take the Monday after Easter, April 1, as well.
v. Instead of school getting out on May 17, have the last day of school be May 24

This still satisfies the 180 instructional day requirement but better aligns with neighboring school districts and distributes breaks more evenly throughout the year.

After discussion, Director Tomasson made a motion to approve and adopt the FY23-24 School Calendar as presented. Director Pennington seconded the motion.

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

- Academic Performance Update-Benchmark Results

Principal Friedermann had provided the Board with the Benchmark Data Reports for review prior to the Board meeting. She discussed those classes that did not maintain from the last benchmark. I most cases, although the class did not maintain, they did have growth, just not what the Benchmark had as an expectation for that class. She explained that interventions have been modified for those classes and additional support has been provided for in class push in groups. She indicated that there had been ongoing meetings with teachers both individually and as a team to focus on student improvement.

Director Tomasson asked if there were any teachers currently on improvement plans and Ms. Friedermann reported that there weren't but that certain teachers are being closely monitored and are being provided with additional assistance.

Director S. Miller suggested that the Principal spend several days in those classrooms to do continual monitoring. Ms. Friedermann informed the Board that both she and the Assistant Principal are going into those struggling classrooms for different lengths of time on various days. Some of these are pop-ins and some are formal, but teaching during Math and ELA specifically is being focused on.

Ms. Friedermann explained that on of the reasons 3rd grade was seeing more success was due to the veteran teachers in that grade level.

- Overview of Unfunded Mandates

Principal Friedermann explained to the Board that currently there are several mandates that schools are working to implement but are receiving not funding for the implementation or continuance of the mandate. She gave a brief outline of a few of them:

i. Kindergarten Entry Assessments (KEA) Principals have already been to several trainings and have had on-site training with staff on KEA. This mandate will require all Kg students to be tested in several different areas within the first 45 days of school. The testing must be done by the classroom teacher. This testing is to be completed during a time when it is a struggle to just teach KG students to walk in a line to and from the cafeteria.
ii. Dyslexia Training Designee was implemented last year and requires all schools to have at least 1 k-3 classroom teacher Dyslexia Designee to be available for all teachers to aid in Dyslexia recognition and instruction. The designee must go through a 6 day training and be available to other classroom teachers throughout the year. NWSM had trained several teachers last year but some of them either left the profession or moved. The school still has one Designee.
iii. SEI Endorsement- Even with the teacher shortage and classrooms being filled with non-certified personnel, the state is mandating additional EL/SEI certification for teachers. The following are required:
    1. EL-SEI Endorsement-45 hour SEI Endorsement
    2. Literacy Endorsement by August 1, 2028, Literacy K-5 Reading, Reading K-12 or Reading Specialist K-12
iv. K-4 Discipline Restrictions – this was implemented last year and puts several restrictions on what schools are and are not allowed to do in terms of disciplining k-4 students. This has proven to be quite a challenge and has required additional time and resources to manage certain discipline issues.

- EMAC Monitoring- Assistant Principal and Title I Director, Tara Bittinger, explained that as part of Grant Cycle monitoring, both schools were in their administrative monitoring cycle. She reported that all required documentation had been uploaded prior to the deadline and is being reviewed by Grants Management staff.

- EL Monitoring - This is the first time the EL program has been monitored. Due to confusing language in the original instructions to schools, many schools, including ours, misinterpreted what the different instructional models were trying to convey. The Department of Ed is currently working on clarifying language and will be reviewing our plan to update our EL programming for next year.

- Enrollment-Marketing Update Jessica Friedermann updated the Board on current marketing efforts being directed at Hispanic Communities and local apartment complexes. In addition, events and family involvement evenings were discussed.

- Executive Session Director Tomasson called the Board into Executive Session for purposes of discussing Corporate Merger possibilities.

- Call to Order
  Director Tomasson called the Public Meeting of the Noah Webster Schools-Mesa's Board of Directors back to order.

- Announcements

  There were no announcements. The next Board meeting date to be announced at a future date.

- Adjournment

  There being no further business, Director Tomasson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Pennington seconded the motion

  The motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm passed unanimously with Director Tomasson, Director Pennington, Director S. Miller, Director Wales and Director R. Miller voting to approve.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2023

Vicki Dry

Vicki Dry, Secretary