

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
OF
NOAH WEBSTER SCHOOLS-MESA

February 20, 2024

Held Virtually

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: John Tomasson

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

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 23, 2024 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Board meeting. Director Pennington made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director S. Miller seconded the motion.

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

- Specific Matters to be Considered

- Review December 31, 2023 Internally Generated financial Statements and Related Documents

The Board was provided with the December 31, 2023 Internally Generated Financial Statements, the Combined Statements of Financial Position and Activities and the Cash Budget to Actual & Variances Report.

Director S. Miller and Ms. Dry reviewed specific areas of concern and discussed mitigation efforts as it relates to enrollment and additional funding. The Board also discussed days cash on hand and covenant compliance with both the 2015 and 2014 bonds as well as the QZAB bond. Director S. Miller indicated that the QZAB bond would be paid for towards the end of 2026 and at that time NWSM would have approximately \$24,700.00/month less debt to service and \$227,000.00 in Restricted

cash released from restriction. A total of approximately \$523,400.00 additional cash to put towards reserves..

- Review Academic Benchmark Results

Principal Friedermann reviewed the results by first presenting the highlights, low lights and outliers.

Highlights

Kindergarten Math - Grade level increased 16 points in percent passing.

1st grade ELA – Grade level increased 14 points in percent passing and All 3 classes met for growth with 2 of the 3 exceeding the expectations.

Class/Teacher 3.1 in Math 100% passing the Benchmark.

4th grade math increased 14 points in percent passing.

Low lights and Action Plan

1st grade math – lost 2 points in percent passing and 2 teachers did not maintain growth, they have slowed down to ensure students are mastering the standards. We still should have seen growth even with an increase in DL cut scores from 465-574 over 100 points. Both teachers will have action plans created and we will be doing a deep dive with 6-week plans.

Class 3.3 – Action plan is being put in place as the class did not maintain growth or increase in percent passing for Math at this benchmark. Teacher has adjusted curriculum to meet the students where they are.

Outliers

Class 2.3 – Class did not maintain growth in ELA; however, this class increased their percent passing by 10%. We will be monitoring this class but not putting an action plan in place at this time.

Class 4.1 – Class did not maintain growth in Math, we see this at times with our excelling level classes/students when they get at or over 90% passing, the room from growth is just not there. 93% are passing the test ceiling is hit.

Director Wales asked if the students were being graded on a curve for report card grades and Principal Friedermann explained that they were straight graded which reflected actual daily, weekly and quarterly testing grades. Director Pennington asked if there was data that would show a correlation between demographics, attendance and year over year performance. Principals Friedermann said that the State test is the only thing currently that shows year-over-year performance data but, quite possibly, our new SIS that will be operational next year will provide more of this type of data. Principal Friedermann and Principal Rodenbaugh indicated that they would look at the possibility of putting something together for the interim that would provide that type of additional data.

- Review and Approve FY25 7th Grade Programming Proposal

A proposal for the 7th & 8th grade expansion was presented to the Board. Principals Friedermann and Rodenbaugh as well as Assistant Principal Bitteringer reviewed the

Curriculum, Facilities changes, Bell Schedules, Electives, Athletics, Staffing structure, and Budget. Facility Maps and Enrollment reports were also reviewed. Separate discussion took place regarding Sports. It was proposed by management that the school does not move forward with sports such as football, basketball, baseball etc until FY26 so that they have time to survey the students and see where their interests lie. Also this will provide an additional class or two of students, making the possibility of putting a team together more feasible. In place of the traditional sports, management proposed starting an E-Sports program with the two schools that could compete against each other until we get to the point where we can join a league. The Board further discussed the potential upside to doing an E-Sports program and provided suggestions on possible partnerships.

Director Pennington made a motion to approve the Noah Webster Schools 7th & 8th Grade Expanded Grades Proposal as presented. Director Wales seconded the motion.

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

- Update on the Recent Noah Webster Schools Interval Review

Principal Friedermann reported to the Board that although this was Noah Webster Schools-Pima's 10 year interval review by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, the compliance and academic systems review took into account Noah Webster Schools-Mesa's compliance and academic systems since both schools share the same systems. She indicated that the review included both Compliance and Academic Systems being reviewed. The Academic Systems included the following areas and their required evidence:

Curriculum

- Evidence of curriculum alignment with Arizona's Academic Standards for core content areas and grade levels within an academic year.
- Evidence of content and skills to be taught for each grade level and/ or content area.

Curriculum Review

- Evidence of a consistently implemented process for monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing curriculum for alignment to standards.
- Evidence that the curriculum is consistently reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the population served.
- Evidence of a plan of action based on findings.

Assessment

- Evidence of implementation of a balanced assessment system including the assessments, data collected and periods of review, covering all core content areas and grade levels.
- Evidence of a process that uses assessment data to create a plan for instruction.

Monitoring Instruction

- Evidence that classroom observations are conducted regularly to confirm instruction is aligned to standards.
- Evidence of feedback being provided to teachers based on observations.
- Evidence that the performance of teachers is evaluated using a summative evaluation system that is compliant with A.R.S. §15-189.06.

Professional Development

- Evidence that professional development addresses student achievement and outcomes.
- Evidence that professional development supports implementation of the school's program of instruction.

This review required providing evidence of the above items for review without explanation from the school. As part of the review, a multitude of evidence of our systems and processes that are in place and effective were uploaded to the Charter Board, over 250 documents were uploaded, totaling over 3000 pages just of the academic systems. As part of the review, the Charter Board conducted an on-site visit observing instruction in classrooms and checking for compliance and alignment with our Program of Instruction. All academic systems Curriculum, Curriculum Review, Assessment, Monitoring Instruction and Professional Development were all found to meet the requirements and go above the minimum expectations, there were no findings or adjustments needed with our academic systems. Our Educational Program Manager at the Charter Board was overly impressed with our academic systems and stated that Noah Webster was 1 out of 2 schools this school year that have received a formal review with no academic system findings. She also informed us that she will be using our interval review and our highly effective systematic processes as training for the Charter Board Staff and other Charter Schools in Arizona.

The compliance review looked at a variety of areas, here which evidence had to be uploaded as well. They looked at the following categories and evidence:

Board Meetings

- Governing Body agendas and minutes for the last 12 months
- Evidence of posting the required notice required by Arizona's Open Meeting Law

Staff Information

- Complete list of all individuals on the charter holder/school's payroll. This includes:
 - Instructional staff (classroom teachers, instructional aides, special area teachers, etc.)
 - Non-instructional staff (lunch staff, recess staff, maintenance staff, etc.)
 - Contractors (special education contractors, school psychologists, etc.)
- In the "Fingerprint Cards and Background Checks Folder," either:
 - Upload all Fingerprint Clearance Cards or Background Checks (as appropriate) for all staff members and contractors, OR
 - Complete the Fingerprint Documentation Template contained in the folder.

Enrollment

- Student/Family handbook
 - Attendance policy (if separate from handbook)
 - Discipline policy (if separate from handbook)
- Enrollment packet (include a PDF of the online form if enrollment is online)
 - After also request online access to walk through the information and the enrolment process as if they were a parent.

Calendar and Schedules

- Current School Calendar indicating days in school, days off of school, and any early release or half days.
- Daily Instructional and Bell Schedules for all classes (schedules must indicate specific time periods for subject areas, as well as breaks, recess, and lunch)

Occupancy Documentation

- Current, Valid Certificate of Occupancy for all campus buildings, demonstrating E occupancy.
- The most current Fire Marshal's inspection report. The report must demonstrate that:
 - It was issued within the last three years.
 - The facility was inspected for E occupancy, and
 - It is from the State Fire Marshal or an entity on the State Fire Marshal's current LOA list.

No compliance issues were found with the Board meetings, Staff Information, Enrollment Practices, Calendars and Schedules or Occupancy Documentation.

The compliance Check also reviews our website in detail, clicking on links and reviewing all ARS Statutes that apply to Charter School websites. After all the review in-depth review of our Academic Systems, Compliance requirements and our website The Charter Board found ONE item on our website that they deemed out of compliance. Of the 11 items reviewed on our website they found this one to be out of compliance: that the ASBCS Performance Dashboard Links are properly posted A.A.C. R7-5-501(E).

A link is posted on our website and links to the ASBCS Performance Dashboard page; however, the Charter Board has updated their website, and our link goes to an active ASBCS Performance Dashboard page on their old website, it is a working link. 30 days to fix, waiting on further guidance as they have 3 dashboard areas on their new website, and we want to ensure that we are posting the link that they are specifically looking for.

- Update On Annual Investor Call

The Board was provided with a detailed report of the February 15, 2024 Annual Investor Call. Director Miller reviewed the report with additional explanations and information regarding the QZAB, Poverty and Ethnicity changes, staffing, marketing efforts and family focused events. Ms. Dry reviewed the ADE & Auditor General's

office's focus on Safety and the plans and procedures currently in place. She also reviewed the audits that will be conducted by the AZ Auditor General's Office..

- School Updates

Principal Friedermann updated the Board on school news. She reviewed the schools big fund raiser, APEX, that is currently going on as well as gave the Board information on testing currently taking place and the grade level showcase events that are scheduled. She invited the Board to attend the schools' fun run next Friday for APEX.

- Announcements

There were no announcements. The next Board meeting was tentatively set for March 26, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

- Adjournment

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

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm passed unanimously with Director Pennington, Director R. Miller, Director Wales and Director S. Miller voting to approve.

Dated this 21st day of February, 2024



Vicki Dry, Secretary