

BREVARD ACADEMY – A CHALLENGE FOUNDATION ACADEMY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

January 11, 2016, 5:45 p.m.

Searcy Hall

Chair: Warren Alston

Secretary: Zia McConnell

Members present: Laura Thomas (via phone), Nick Iosue, Ashleigh Dalton, Stewart Marshall

Administration present: Barbara Grimm

Guest: Park Baker – Transylvania Times

The regular meeting of the Brevard Academy Board of Directors was called to order by the Chair at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Nick to approve the agenda. Stewart seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

**Consideration and approval of minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Zia to approve December 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Nick seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Reece & Addie Shober.

**Public Comment:** None

**PTO report:** **Ashleigh Dalton** from Will Dalton

- Bingo & chili night will be next Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>
- PTO will give \$100 to each classroom for their use by the end of this week
- Middle School movie night to be determined
- Working on getting the Scholastic Book Fair in order for March

**Teacher report:**

Kate Shober and Heather Corn from Exceptional Children reported on EC for BA-CFA:

Kate is EC for grades K-4 and manages one 8<sup>th</sup> grader. She manages 18 EC cases. Nine receive EC services daily. There are six who receive speech therapy (which is contracted out) and one student with hearing issues.

Nick mentioned that in Hendersonville, some of these services are offered through Family Services at no cost. Does Transylvania County have something like this? If so, it might be something for our EC to explore.

Heather Corn is the EC coordinator and is the case manager for 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade. She manages 19 students; 12 receive EC services daily and she has one hearing impaired student. She discussed that several of them have 504s which means that they receive some sort of accommodation in the classroom for learning. It might be that they write their tests instead of “bubble” them, in which case the test coordinator transfers the data to the test. Another form of accommodation is that a student may need a longer time to take a test.

As a side note, we have also added a behavior specialist who has been working with a student weekly. Her role is about to be broadened.

In September, EC went through an audit, and from this audit came some valuable information. The state has changed their requirements in terms of forms and how things need to be recorded, so there is a lot of work to do to catch up to be compliant, but this is true of all schools because this was a change that the state initiated, but that was not known until the audit. So, EC is working hard to make the necessary changes in their records. The best news of all however, is that the auditors were very complimentary of how our EC staff works and interacts with students – we are serving these children well.

The LEA assessment is being used to collect data on students throughout the year. Heather attends quarterly sessions to keep updated on the students. The overall direction is to have students work within the setting of general education first; not special services first.

We have received a grant to have one student be in a self-contained classroom, but we are still looking for a teacher for that classroom situation.

Heather and Kate will turn in LEA documentation and their new goals to the state in July. They look forward to being able to track graduation rates and are also looking at other data they might be able to and want to track.

Zia asked the question about graduating BA-CFA eighth graders – what happens to all of their documentation, goals, etc.? Heather says she has a great relationship with the various high schools (BHS, West Henderson, etc.) and before a student graduates, she contacts the coordinators at those schools to make sure information and records are properly passed on to the EC services at those schools.

As it stands now, our enrollment for next year shows that we will have an increased number of EC students. As of December, the count is 27. The question was asked why do we think this is the situation -- Barbara said she feels parents of EC students are looking for the right environment for their children, and what we offer in terms of smaller classrooms and smaller overall environment and dedicated staff seems to be a good fit. She also reminded us that while 10% of our students are EC students, we have 30-35% of students who are performing at the 90% level or greater. So we have and serve a wide variety of students. We want to be known as a school who meets all students' educational needs.

Heather said the number of diagnoses that require Individual Education Plans (IEPs) is fourteen students. Transylvania has a rate of 12-13% EC students, so we are comparable to the other county schools.

**Director report: Barbara Grimm***Enrollment:*

- Three new students started on January 4th. Current Total – **289**

*Advertising:*

- We have placed billboards in 4 locations around town. Two of them are on the Rosman side and two are on the Pisgah Forest side. By placing them on December 15th we were able to get them at half-price.
- We have sent 2 flyers home to all students concerning the Open House and have asked parents to post one of them.
- White Squirrel: Our next radio spot will be Tuesday, January 12th at 9:15. Coach will join me to discuss sports at Brevard Academy.

*EC – Related services:*

Below is the explanation for the change in our count from December 2014-December 2015.

- December 2014 (20)
  - o 3 students transferred to another school for the 2015-16 school year
  - o 1 student went on to high school
  - o 2 students were exited from EC services
  - o Total = 6
- December 2015 (27)
  - o 3 Kindergarteners came with IEP
  - o 6 students transferred to BA from other schools
  - o 4 students went through evaluation process and determined eligible for EC services
  - o Total = 13
- Dec 2014 (20-6=14) Dec 2015 (14+13=27)

*Athletics:*

- We have 2 regular season games left and on Friday, January 15th we will host the conference tournament at the Rec. Center. This is a great opportunity for our school.
- On Jan 25th we will be starting our Jump Rope for Heart.

*Outdoor Education*

- The Mountain Roots Outdoor Education program is growing strongly. They are laying the foundations and figuring out what is working the best for this new and exciting program. Outdoor education topics so far have included several environmental education cycles and topics including trees, geology, and ecosystems. The Teams, Leadership, and

Character--TLC program has explored Communication, Team Building, Community, and even Wilderness Skills together with classmates.

*School Safety Committee*

- We have completed a school safety report and are awaiting board approval.

*Important Dates*

- January 18th MLK Day No School
- January 19th 8:30-2:30 School wide Open House
- January 21st PTO Bingo and Chili Night

*Service and Community*

- Back Pack Buddies
- We will begin our program on Friday, January 15th. One of our parents sent home a flyer to ask other parents to help with funding.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

- We provided a small thank you gift for all our volunteers before the break comprised of BA-CFA water bottles, lanyards, pens and candy. As we kick off the new year, Barbara will be searching for/recruiting new volunteers from Brevard College sports teams and other organizations.

### *Bus*

- The gas used for last month was \$152.01.
- Nonnie Cullipher completed the class portion of the CDL class. Both she and Brian Bullock will be taking the driving portion this month.

### *Assessment*

- January 7th – Interim Proof of Concept Assessment for 6th grade English/Language Arts
- January 11th-22nd - Mid Year MAP testing
- Kristen Rodriguez will be at our February 3rd faculty meeting to discuss MAP results.

### *Professional Development*

- Barbara met with Jack Rowe, Team CFA Southwestern Rep on Tuesday, January 5th to continue our discussion on moving our school from a “B” to and “A” and on effective classroom instruction.
- Lisa Malaquin-Prey will be attending CPI (crisis prevention intervention) training on January 12-15 in Charlotte.

### *Update on Facilities Grounds:*

- Barbara met with Greg Close and the 35° North group who gave us two different drawings of landscaping/outdoor space of the new property. Here are some other updates:
  - The retaining pond could be used for educational purposes
  - Create systems to catch rain water
  - Barbara will work on grants for different portions of our outdoor space i.e., there is one that would come from dermatologists if we incorporate a sun shelter
  - Southern Highlands Reserve – want to work with this group to have native plants on the property
  - One drawing has 2 soccer fields divided by a path; the other with a single soccer field. Barbara has been assured that both are full-size Middle School size fields.

Stewart said this is great, but how will we pay for this? Barbara said we will be actively seeking grants for the majority of the various outdoor spaces – there are many of these different types of grants available through a variety of sources – and fundraising. It will cost ~ \$50-\$75 for the

playground alone, and this is something we have to have in place when we open. All the money we are getting from current fund raisers is going toward the new playground. Zia said it would be helpful to make sure parents know that that is what the money from fundraising is going towards.

Barbara gave us information on a school in Alabama that has interactive murals of surrounding nature scenes in their area. She is convinced we might be able to do this in conjunction with Pisgah Forest Wildlife Center or National Forest. What a great way to partner with a group in our community! She will look into this and how it might work.

Will we need to fence in the property for safety? The general consensus is that no, we won't need to fence the whole property – however, we are required to have a fence around the retaining pond.

A camera will be mounted very soon so that a complete time-lapse photography of our building's progress can be captured.

Stewart asked about enrollment for the new school – We can take 58 students next year to meet our 20% allowed by the state (we can choose to accept more, but will not receive state funding for any students above the 20%), which brings us to 347.

Stewart also asked for the average attendance rate – he needs these figures for his Team CFA report.

**Team CFA Report: Laura Thomas**

The Board training with Dr. Miller is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> 9a.m. – 4p.m. at Veritas School in Charlotte.

**Financial Report: Nick Iosue**

Listed below are the budget items requested:

- |                             |                |        |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------|--|
| 1. Line 5: Office equipment | Request to add | \$2000 | This is for the office furniture for Lisa Malaquin Prey as Assistant Director. |
| 2. Line 6: Speech services  | Request to add | \$4000 | More students required additional speech therapy                               |

If all recommendations are approved:

Expense will increase by	\$6,000
Net Change: Decrease net surplus by	\$6,000
<b>Net Surplus: (after budget recommendations)</b>	<b>\$198,501.37</b>

**Motion:** A motion was made by Stewart to approve the budget amendments as recommended by the Treasurer. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Nick will contact Krystal to check on a discrepancy – Stewart noted that the ending surplus amount does not match last month's report.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### *Facilities:*

Warren spoke with Charlie Garcia, and construction equipment will roll in beginning Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The primary delay came from needing to go through the state Fire Marshal's office for a permit and there are only 3 state fire marshals for all the new building projects in the entire state of N.C. Team CFA had to get Senator Tom Apodaca involved to help us get moved up in the chain. Charlie told Warren he believed that the school will still be on track to be completed by mid-August.

We will need to lease office space for the months of June/July/mid-August for the Director, Assistant Director and office staff. This is typically a time when we have lots of parents coming into the offices for information and questions. Also, instructional materials arrive so during this time, so the space we rent will need to be adequate for storage of those as well.

Nick said he is meeting the camera crew from Looking Glass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday of next week for a before and after time lapse video of the building if anyone else would like to attend this set up they are welcome.

#### *Fund development/Marketing & Outreach*

- In three weeks, Nick is to meet with Moon Yin about setting up a silent auction event
- The 5K family dash that is planned hopefully will happen at the end of April. Zia mentioned that Juli and Joan Barham (both runners) led this event when it was on school grounds and called the Mom's 5k Dash.

#### *Long Range Planning and Visioning: Zia*

- No report

#### *Personnel: Laura/Warren*

- Still looking for a Special Education teacher – Nick has a contact who might be interested. Barbara noted that it is a short-term position.

#### *Board Development, Policies and Procedures: Zia*

- Bylaws: will focus on these at the March meeting after the remaining Board members attend the Board training session in February.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

- Ashleigh Dalton agreed to be Secretary as of January 2016.

**Motion:** Nick made a motion to have Ashleigh Dalton take on the position of Secretary to the Board. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote. **Motion carried.**

- Meeting date change: It appears that Mondays are not the best meeting days for a variety of reasons (holidays, work schedules, etc.) so, looking at different days so that the time can also be moved to earlier.

**Motion:** Nick made a motion to change the regular meeting dates of the Board to the second Wednesday of every month (starting in February 2016), and to change the start time to 5:00 p.m. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote. **Motion carried.**

#### **Next Meeting:**

This means the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Wednesday, 2/10, at 5:00 p.m.

Subsequent 2016 monthly meeting dates will be: 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8. The July retreat is yet to be determined. The website will need to be updated to reflect this change.

Question: are we running a bus to the new location? Warren – Yes. We need a Transportation Committee to determine where the pick-up/drop-off locations will be (Sav-More, Etowah, Mills River), to contact business people to get permission, etc. Ashleigh said that she could be on the committee – Amy was mentioned because she lives in Hendersonville, and might be able to give input for that area.

Barbara showed us photos of the Talledega school murals – FANTASTIC. So if we want to try for something like this, we need to change the school walls to be painted in white rather than the color scheme suggested by the architect, Mark Bebee.

#### **Adjourn:**

**Motion:** Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Zia seconded. **Motion carried.**  
Vote unanimous. 7:19 p.m.