



Endeavor Board Meeting: September 20, 2010

Opening:

DJ Hill called the regular meeting of the ECS Board of Directors to order at 7 pm on September 20, 2010 in Endeavor's multi-purpose room.

Present:

DJ Hill, Larry Woolard, Christian Nechyba, Andy Kristianson, Margaret Holder, Helen Harris, Lisa Springle, Steve McAdams, Christine Northrup

Minutes:

The minutes from the August Board meeting and the September 6 special board meeting were approved.

Board Meeting Format:

DJ Hill reviewed the Board meeting format for this year. The Board would abide by all open meetings laws. It would hold more of its internal board discussions at the public Board meeting, but public comments would be solicited primarily at the conclusion of the meeting.

Foundation Update:

Steve Santana stated that the ECS Foundation had selected an architect. The Foundation was examining a number of potential properties in North Raleigh with a goal of land purchase by October 2011. The second month of the capital campaign's quiet phase was going smoothly, and the campaign would schedule more information sessions in the next couple of months. Grandparent's day in November and another event in February were being planned also. Financial models pertaining to land purchase would be shared with the ECS Board and finance committee.

Boosters Update:

Lori Tolson stated that the Endeavor boosters planned a fall festival fundraiser on November 5 for all age groups. Eight grade athletes would be honored at the last home meets this year.

Treasurer's Report:

Larry Woolard stated that the school's operating account at First Citizen's Bank had a current balance of \$308,441.32. The school's money market account at Regions Bank had a

current balance of \$224,233.23. The school's CD at Bank of America had a current balance of \$202,525.89.

Audit Update:

Margaret Holder stated that the audit was going well, and a draft would be available by September 30. The audit firm had not seen anything concerning in ECS procedures. The audit firm does not do operational audits, and other resources for analyzing risks and controls were discussed.

FCA proposal:

Ann Dotson proposed the formation of an Endeavor chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for ECS middle school students. The Board discussed the broader principle of whether student-led clubs should be permitted at Endeavor. DJ Hill made a motion that the Board establish parameters to allow student groups at ECS on a trial basis for the remainder of the current school year. Helen Harris seconded the motion. Larry Woolard, DJ Hill, Helen, Harris, and Christine Northrup voted in favor of the motion. Christian Nechyba, Margaret Holder, Steve McAdams, Andy Kristianson, and Lisa Springle voted against the motion. The motion was not passed. The Board had no concerns about ECS students meeting as an FCA community group off the ECS campus outside of school hours.

Leadership Team Update:

Beth Gentile provided a leadership team update. The leadership team consisted of faculty representatives from every grade level, EC, fine arts, athletics, and front office staff. She discussed reading, writing, and math progress in first grade, the application of Elmo technology, and upcoming field trips to Durant Park and Marbles Museum.

EOG Update:

Melissa Dougherty stated that, except for third and fourth grade, EOG growth was measured by subtracting the average of the previous two years from a student's current score. Last year, 302 students were tested for math in grades 3-8 with a 97% proficiency rate. In 4th through 8th grade, 51.4% of students demonstrated growth in math, which means growth goals were met according to the state's definition (50-59% growth). Christi Whiteside stated that last year 302 students were tested for reading in grades 3-8 with a 95.4% proficiency rate. In grades 4-8, 54.1% of students demonstrated growth in reading, which means that growth goals were met in reading.

Melissa Dougherty and Christi Whiteside reviewed the administration's response to EOG data. This included meeting with grade-level teams to review grade-specific EOG data, planning with the 4th-8th grade teams across grade levels, facilitating core teacher attendance at a two-day national math conference, providing other new staff training and development, utilizing benchmark tests in Study Island, measuring both understanding and retention, decreased student shifting as the five-year plan was implemented, implementing high-level thinking skills from Bloom's Taxonomy, and purchasing new resources for high achieving students. Implementation of one dedicated teacher per grade per EOG tested course and lateral planning by subject area would also be implemented for next year. However, the staff would continue to emphasize non-EOG courses, including social studies and fine arts, also.

Five-Year Plan Report:

Christi Whiteside reported on the Five Year Plan, which was launched to increase faculty involvement in decision-making. Ten focus areas were identified: math, reading, writing, science, social studies, public speaking, community service, athletics, fine arts, and exceptional children. Each staff member was asked to serve on two planning committees of his/her choice. At the end of this planning period, all five year plans were posted for staff review and comment and then presented at the staff meetings at the beginning of this year. Copies of the year 1 plans in all areas were distributed to the staff. Meetings about the progress of plans will resume in second quarter, and goals will be adjusted as needed.

Board Calendar: Priorities Review:

Helen Harris reviewed the Board calendar. The Board chair and the Director would consider which Board items would go on the agenda for Board meetings, which would go to committees, and which would go to individual Board liaisons. Board members would provide feedback to Helen Harris about progress on calendar items.

Board Goals:

DJ Hill discussed the scope of board duties, administrative duties, and duties shared by the two groups. He differentiated between routine board duties and larger board goals. Large categories of board duties included overseeing academic performance, insuring compliance with applicable laws and DPI requirements, and maintaining fiduciary responsibility. The Board would consider its responsibilities in each of these categories and continue to develop these goals at future meetings.

Communications Proposals:

Helen Harris discussed communication ideas including a periodic open forum for parents at the beginning of board meetings, a suggestion box, and a new system for e-mail communication with the Board. She would develop a comprehensive review of communications at ECS and report back to the Board at a future Board meeting.

Senior Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Director Vote:

Lisa Springle stated that the Board believed there was a need to perform a re-vote on the Senior Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Director position, since the initial vote had occurred at a closed session during which minutes had not been taken. Lisa Springle made a motion that, for the 2010-2011 school year, the position currently occupied by Christi Whiteside would be titled as Senior Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Director, with 70% of time devoted to Senior Curriculum Coordinator duties and 30% of time devoted to Assistant Director duties. DJ Hill seconded the motion. DJ Hill, Andy Kristianson, Christian Nechyba, and Lisa Springle voted in favor of the motion. Margaret Holder, Helen Harris, and Larry Woolard voted against the motion. Steve McAdams and Christine Northrup abstained. The motion passed. Lisa Springle made a second motion that, for the 2010-2011 school year, this position will change from a 10-month position with flex days to an 11-month position without flex days, retroactive to August 15, 2010. Christian Nechyba seconded the motion. DJ Hill, Andy Kristianson, Christian Nechyba, Margaret Holder, Lisa Springle, Larry

Woolard and Helen Harris voted in favor of the motion. Steve McAdams and Christine Northrup abstained. The motion passed. Helen Harris requested that the following statement be included in the record: "I don't want my vote to be misconstrued or misunderstood. I am voting in the negative because I am voting against the process the board took in this matter."

Public Comments for Board Consideration:

An upcoming parent workshop on drugs and alcohol abuse was announced. In response to an audience question, it was announced that the security task force would report at the October Board meeting. In response to further questions, it was announced that the Board would vote on renewing board terms for Larry Woolard, Helen Harris, and Lisa Springle at the October Board meeting. A DPI representative had been asked to meet with the Board, but had not committed to this yet. Eileen Underkoffler stated that she hoped the school would aim for high EOG growth.

Adjournment:

DJ Hill adjourned the meeting at 10:26 pm.