



GOODWIN UNIVERSITY MAGNET SCHOOL SYSTEM, INC.

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 4:00PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Jackie Jacoby.

Members present: Jackie Jacoby, Megan Mehr, Todd Andrews, Eddie Meyer, Lee Housley, Mark Scheinberg

Members absent: Merilee DeJohn

Staff present: Sal Menzo, David Daye, Sarah Burke, Jessica Gomez-Bedosky, JT Foster, Kimberlee Matthews, Lexi Kaider

Staff Absent: Dan Moleti, Windy Petersen, Jenna Toner, Timothy Pivirotto, Meaghan Freeman

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent Agenda

Minutes of June 20, 2024, were reviewed by the Board as a group. Lee Housley motioned to approve the minutes. Todd Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Requiring Action

a. GUMS Resolution 24-09 - Corporate Resolution to Elect the Officers of Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc.

Lee Housley motioned to approve Resolution 24-09. Mark Scheinberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. GUMS Resolution 24-10 - Corporate Resolution to Approve Goodwin University Magnet School System Policy

- i. Presentation and approval of the following Goodwin University Magnet School System Policies

Revised Policy - 5036 - High School Graduation Requirements

Jackie put forth the suggestion to add a paragraph to Policy 5036 that speaks to the unique position of Connecticut River Academy such that it allows scholars to fulfill their required credits through the System's affiliation with Goodwin University and the University of Bridgeport.

Megan Mehr motioned to approve Policy 5036 with the revision put forth by Jackie. Mark Scheinberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Policy - 5037 - Use of Therapy Dogs in Schools

Lee Housley motioned to approve Policy 5037. Todd Andrews seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Superintendent and Staff Update

Start to the School Year: Sal Menzo shared that he and David Daye visited the schools today, October 24. Due to the remarkable weather, there has been an increased number of days that students have been able to enjoy outdoor recess, and the atmosphere in the schools is very positive. GUMS is very fortunate because the System continues to maintain its staff and provide high-quality instructional opportunities.

RSCO Fair Launching New Technical High School: This weekend, October 26, is the first recruitment event of the year at CTRA, as RSCO identified a GUMS location for the fair, during which materials will be provided to families of scholars. This will be the first launch of the new technical high school for an incoming class in 2025. The new technical high school will be the only technical magnet school in the state of Connecticut, and the incoming class aims to comprise 72 students. Sal is confident that once the broader community understands the significance of the programmatic and structural opportunities of the high school, families will want their scholars to be a part of it. The Central Office has already been receiving unsolicited phone calls from families asking how they can get their children enrolled. This evening Sal and David will be presenting to Hartford Public School parents, presenting the new high school's site plan and going over safety measures that will ensure the safety of scholars as construction ensues. Sal sees this as a good partnership as the team moves forward in this groundbreaking experience.

Shout-Outs for Work in the Schools: Sal shared that there is a tremendous amount of work going on at each level. He applauded the elementary staff for their implementing a new English/Language Arts program, the Science of Reading, which ensures that all students are reading on grade level by grade 4. There was funding to find the resources to support this initiative in conjunction with effective teaching strategies, and Kimberlee Matthews, Jessica Gomez-Bedosky, and most importantly the teachers are commended for their dedication and commitment to scholars in the implementation of this program. Next, at the middle level, the school is progressing very quickly in creating a climate and culture that has been aspired for. JT Foster and Windy Petersen have been helpful in assisting with the transition of the new administrators. Next, at the high school we see the continued growth of the pathways

programs. There are now University-articulated classes in business as well as the health sciences. As this was not the case last year, the team is very excited to expand these opportunities and continue the work they are doing in advanced manufacturing and computer science. Lastly, at ECAMP with the additional cohort of students, Keith Sevigny has been preparing for interviews for their apprenticeship programs. With more students there is a need for more apprenticeship opportunities, and Keith has been out there meeting with businesses.

Kimberlee Matthews thanked Sal for his words, as running a new program is difficult yet the elementary teachers are doing a great job on this undertaking, which will yield great things from their scholars.

JT Foster shared that the healthcare pathway students are knocking it out of the park, and the teachers are speechless at their success.

Recruitment and Retention: David Daye shared that the October enrollment is 1,245 (or 1,249, as data is still being cleaned up), though enrollment numbers are subject to change due to concurrent enrollment. He is working with RSCO as well as Adams & Knight on a plan for state marketing of NexTech, and he is looking forward to rolling out exciting new technology this Saturday, October 26, at the RSCO fair at CTRA. Sal added that GUMS has a bus arriving tomorrow, October 25, that has been wrapped in such a way that it highlights the pathways of the school system and it was fully funded by grant funding. Pictures are forthcoming.

Student Support Services: Sarah Burke shared that GUMS has qualified staff who have undergone intensive training whose services can be used not only to enhance the district but contribute via contract to other districts as well.

Curriculum & Instruction: Jessica Gomez-Bedosky shared that all instructional leads in the district are currently conducting walk-throughs to witness the core competencies being exhibited in classrooms, then coming back to debrief with administrators and discuss how to improve. Additionally, there have been two focus groups with the high school, and she is now headed to the middle school because it is important to understand how staff and students feel about various aspects of the district.

District Development Plan: Sal shared that the district development plan is actively being revisited as administrators have been in working sessions to solidify the feedback received from staff. In February of 2025, the plan will be brought back to staff so that it can be transitioned into school-specific components. Additionally, an internal dashboard will be launched next week to display KPIs related to the metrics of the plan, including teaching & learning, partnerships, engagement, resources, and innovation. First the dashboard will be used with administrators, then staff, then it will be moved to the website to display the progress of the district publicly.

Hartford's Blue-Ribbon Commission: On November 6, Sal and David will present in front of the Commission to discuss the GUMS operational make-up, the relationship between Hartford Public Schools (HPS) and GUMS, programming/opportunities that are delivered to

Hartford students by GUMS, the differences and similarities between GUMS and other local magnet systems such as CREC and HPS, and more. This will be recorded and can be sent out to Board members.

6. Reminder of Next Meetings:

- a. January 30, 2025
- b. April 24, 2025
- c. June 18, 2025

7. Adjournment

Todd Andrews motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Eddie Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Meeting minutes recorded by Lexi Kaider.