

BOT Meeting Thursday December 19, 2024 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Sander, Robert Ansbro, Lucas Doe, Ted Francavilla, Thomas Gorrell, Christopher Brignola, Sean Blackwell

Administrators in attendance: Leena Thomas, Eddie Kubina

Meeting Called to Order by Jim Sander 6:37pm

I. Approval of Minutes

Ted motioned to approve the minutes, Thomas seconds, all in favor

II. Education

We are mainly looking at 50%, 60% and over. Most teachers have shown growth in those categories. Most have shown growth overall and there are only two teachers that have gone slightly down or did not go up. We will work closely with those teachers in order to help them have gains. We will co-teach with those teachers in order to help them.

The second period assessments were a bit more challenging. Some classes had a decline of 70% and above, which is to be expected since the exams were more difficult. Overall the results were promising. Mr. Topal still needs to have more improvement moving forward, however, he is making changes based on feedback he has received. Adam W. had the most improvement in our middle school. He is doing a good job with his students. Mr. Halstead also had improvement and is doing a nice job of helping his students improve. Ms. Parker saw a decline in math which will be looked at more closely when we return from our break. Mr. Berg also improved and is doing a good job with his students. In the 3-5 grades, there was improvement in mostly all classes. Math still needs to be stronger and I will begin working more closely with some of the teachers to get better results.

We will send home packets for the break.

If we give Chris the standards that were on the exams, he can give us feedback on the strands and how students are performing. We can give him the PDF so we can correlate the exams to the strands. He can run calculations and then we can get a better visual of the improvement. We need to get the June Instructional Report. We can then correlate our assessment to the data.

Jim commends the staff for working so hard and he knows we will have great results because of how hard everyone works.

III. Update on Student Recruitment

Right now we are tackling kindergarten and ninth grade. We want students for all grades, but our priority has been to get to day care centers for kindergarten students and middle school for ninth graders. Leena has been reaching out to many daycare centers and we have had good results so far. We are inviting daycare children to our events and we are also attending parent events at the daycares to talk to parents and hopefully get some applications. We are giving out a goody bag and hoping the parents will register. We are doing a better job of getting our name out to parents. We have also offered our gymnasium to daycare centers which they are interested in since they have limited space. It is a great way for us to get parents interested in getting children into our school. Jim adds to make sure we use current state testing data.

Some of the 6-8 charter schools are not interested because they know our school is high performing and they do not want to lose students to us. It is more difficult to convince these schools to let us come in to talk about our school. Public prep will be contacting us in January. We have two more visits upcoming for Classical Charter School. We also will have Creo visit our building on February 4th.

Some parents are looking to transfer out of Success Academy. They are very aggressive and they are competition for us. We can look to recruit students during dismissal and give them information about our high school.

Staff recruitment has been difficult, two people came in and were not that good. A lot of people don't come in. Most resumes do not look worthwhile. We have not had any luck with recruiting a high school assistant principal.

IV. Vote on Middle School Moving to New Building

The 470 Jackson Ave. building has become unstable. The conditions have gotten worse. Chris knows someone who works in the building who says it has gotten worse.

We have a building utilization plan, we do not have a lease. Once we approve and are sure we are leaving, we will notify the DOE and they will then determine what to do with that space.

We would likely lose a lot of our 5th graders who would not want to go to the current middle school building after being in our new building.

Robert wants to know how much room we have at the new building. We can fit all of our students in that building 5-12 once we move up.

We will have 2nd grade stay at P.S. 65 and they will not come to the new building until 5th grade.

The proposal is to move grades 6-8 from 470 Jackson Ave. to 356 E 139th street effective July 1st, 2025. James made the proposal and Robert seconds the proposal. All in favor, none opposed. The motion has passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

Building and Development: Nothing much to report. We thought we had more money in the bond than we do. David Haller was told there is only \$2,000 in the account. It has something to do with accounting. It is someplace in the system, but it is not lost or spent. We thought there was \$600,000, we need a report from Paul in order to see where the funds are. David Haller said Signature took care of things with the fire department. Some minor punch list items are left. We should get a different contractor once they fulfill their responsibilities. We should then have the additional work done by someone else. Signature will be looking to make more if we stay with them. The new kitchen should be done with another contractor. Some things can be done by our own maintenance man. David was concerned that he is not licensed for certain things like electrical. David can give us a list of the licenses that are needed. He had some reservations on his qualifications. Leena adds he has some language barriers but can take the exams likely and pass them and get needed licences. David was also concerned about the security because they are a bit slow on getting things done. They are not completing everything that needs to be done.

Sean would like to get a copy of the punch list to find people who are qualified and help.

Signature did not really show what everything would look like and when they were finished, it did not look the way Norma really wanted it. Now some of them need to be changed. A lot of it can be done in house and is not major.

Signature wanted about \$600,000 for the kitchen and it seems too high, they are likely just looking for extra money. Another contractor might charge just as much, but it seems Signature is not interested. We can get Sean a list so that he can see if he can get a contractor that can assist.

Finance: Nothing new to report. Paul should be in touch with Lucas about the shortfall on the bond. Lucas will reach out to Paul and find out what is happening. David Haller mentioned it to Robert after he had talked with Paul.

Education: Chris wants to get some information on the June instructional report and assessments.

Jim asks if there is any new business. There is none to report.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36pm.