

RIDGEVIEW CHARTER BOARD MINUTES

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Shezarrah Keane

In Attendance

Board members: Shezarrah Keane, Jennifer Stepp, Reshall Williams, Mikal Brown – Colleen Samuels was absent

Special Guests: Jennifer Lucas, Justin Matthews (Alliance Educational Services)

Location

Ridgeview Charter School

Meeting Called to Order: 4:11

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Stepp, Second by Mr. Brown, Unanimous vote

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Brown, Second by Mrs. Stepp, Unanimous vote

Annual Report

Mrs. Keane introduced Mrs. Lucas and Mr. Matthews and they told board members a bit about themselves and their company as well as their work with Ridgeview.

Mrs. Williams spoke on lessons learned from our first school year. She mentioned this was not a typical school year due to the impacts of Covid -19 but the school had done well despite the challenges. She reported that we have learned that focusing on enrollment was the main priority as funding, programming, staffing and much of the success of the school depends on this. We need to concentrate on the promotion of the school and its offerings in order to attract students, retain students, be prepared to deal with the influence of the others schools in the district on parents to lure the students to traditional public schools for funding sake, and be prepared to reduce staff earlier if necessary due to enrollment numbers. Transportation is also pivotal in our school being successful and we need to continue to see how we can best serve our students transportation needs

in an efficient manner. We will build off the things we learned from our first year. The importance of safety in the school is something we were quickly made aware of this year with the outbreak of Covid-19 and other sicknesses that heavily impacted the school. We learned not to underestimate the toll sickness can have on both the staff and the students and the effect it can have on learning. Lastly, we learned the value of having a CMO (Charter Management Organization) as it has alleviated much work and stress that was on the staff and board.

Mrs. Lucas and Mr. Matthews recapped some of the ways their organization had helped in school by visiting the school and presenting a plan on how to best serve Ridgeview. Aside from investing financially their organization supported the school through financial reporting, fundraising and grants, communications, marketing, and customer service. They have worked on improving our relationship with our transportation vendor. They have helped us form partnerships with other charter schools. The goals they would suggest the school focus on next year is enrollment capacity, communication with parents, customer service and academic program success – achieving enrollment target, maintaining students, living the mission.

Old Business

Title IV grant of \$10,000 will be used to implement our language program which is an integral piece of our charter.

We have applied for a competitive safety grant. If we are awarded monies, we will use those for a School Resource Officer.

We have been approved by the initial process for the NC Access Grant. These monies can only be used for temporary items and solutions which would help us with temporary learning space with mobile classrooms.

All Emergency (CARES) grant funds will go to technology for devices and digital access for all students.

Parent survey results on preference for having school in person fulltime or an A/B schedule came in with an almost 50/50 split. Only three parents requested at home learning only. Approximately 94% of the parents responded.

New Business

Ridgeview will be mirroring Gaston County School's A/B educational plan for the beginning of the school year. The students will be split into two cohorts with one cohort attending in person on Monday and Tuesday and the other cohort attending on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a remote learning day for all students and assessment day. It will also give time for proper sanitation between the cohorts. This plan will be different from the remote learning at the end of year and there will be requirements for all students. Daily attendance will be taken, and engagement is required.

Grades are required. There will be accountability.

The reopening plan was sent into the state, but we have not received feedback.

We plan to use Google Classroom for remote learning.

Budget will be based on 225 students at this time but we may be able to update that to 250. We should be able to spend more on student equipment, technology, books, and supplies this year. The board will look at the possibility of reasonable raises for returning staff and work to keep competitive pay for new teachers. The board would like to have a salary schedule for the future.

We are participating in a co-op cluster with other charter schools (SW Charlotte STEM, Mallard Creek STEM, and Mountain Island Charter) for shared hiring of some positions. We will share a regional food program manager and EC coordinator.

All teachers have been hired as well as a full-time secretary. At this time, no TA's have been hired. We are looking at the possibility of hiring a Tier 2 Intervention Specialist that is also a certified teacher.

We will take bids from three different cleaning companies certified to sanitize for the current virus. We will reach out to CINTAS, Top Pro Cleaners, and STAT Cleaning Services.

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid – 19, Ridgeview will contact Gaston County DHHS who will determine the next steps in contact tracing.

Comments and Announcements

It was suggested that the students be encouraged to have a fun fellowship time online once a week – perhaps on Google Hangouts or Zoom. They can hold discussions and perhaps play some games or plan events. Parents could also coordinate to set up co-ops, field trips, playdates or ask for assistance from other parents.

It was suggested we investigate contracting with Kelly Temp Services for substitute teachers knowing it is more likely we could have teachers out for long period of time or having several out at one time with rising numbers of Covid 19 cases.

The board is encouraged to help find additional board members as our board is very small. The names of potential candidates should be sent to Mrs. Keane.

Next Meeting

August 29, 2020 | 10:00 am | Ridgeview Charter School

Adjournment: 6:15

Motion by Mrs. Williams, Second by Mr. Brown, Unanimous vote