

<b>Agenda Item</b>
<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b> The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, Alisa Hov at 6:07p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROLL CALL</b> The Board Chair took roll of members present: Sarah, Al, Jamie, Jon, Michael, Beth, Alison. Rebecca, Jennifer, Bill, Melanie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guest at the meeting Mary Alice Dixson, (Goes by Alice), considering board membership</p>
<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by Sarah, Second by Michael Vote: All to approve</p> <p><b>CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES</b> Shall the Board approve the minutes of the <b>March 8, 2022 Board Meeting?</b> Motion by Sarah Second by Michael Vote: All to approve agenda with amendment brought by Allison for changes to more accurately reflect discussion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Need to vote on approving February meeting minutes (look into January as well).</b></p>
<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b> This agenda item is included for the purpose of giving anyone in attendance the opportunity to comment on a non-agenda or agenda item with the Board. There will be a three-minute time limit per person. The audience is not to applaud nor demonstrate disapproval for the comments made. The Board may respond asking for clarification only.</p> <p>Amy - family incident in Feb., a threat against son's life at school, traumatic for her and family. Opportunity for improvement re: communication they received from school. Family wanted more communication from school, needed more information (within the realm of confidentiality) to ensure child's safety, needed to be heard and feel supported. They felt neither. After 2 week. She felt heard. The opportunity is present for FSI to improve communication when a student has been threatened, harmed, perhaps create a communication protocol.</p> <p>Alisa made clear that, procedurally, the board could not address the concern in the moment but will take it up in future proceedings.</p>
<p><b>FUNDRAISING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Glows &amp; Grows Auction</li> <li>● Michele - auction was a success, raised \$1500 for staff appreciation. 26k raised. People also gave comments to teachers, "Show your Glows," posted at teacher mailboxes.</li> <li>● MUD RUN is May 1, 2022. Tickets are available currently on facebook and via newsletter. Michele will share link.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DEI COMMITTEE</b> Comprised of Rebecca, Jennifer, Allison, and Melanie</p>
<p><b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY STATEMENTS</b> <b>Signatures required of all board members. All members agree to comply with this policy.</b></p>
<p><b>Board member resigns as of today</b> <b>Susan Ramos, member for 4 years, has resigned from her position on the board. Alisa acknowledged her commendable service and thanked her in her absence.</b></p>
<p><b>ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summary of Activities</li> <li>● Update on Enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1ST YEAR FOR WEIGHTED LOTTERY, ONLY 39 APPLICANTS THIS YEAR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- o Trying to grow 5th grade recruitment to grow that class to 100 students (from 88 applications currently), need more applicants than slots. Current financial projections account for 85 5th graders.
- o Allison asked about sibling vs. household status (for priority consideration), Michele said that state guidelines bind the practice of FSI re: sibling definitions.
- In the final stages of filling EC director position.
- Actively recruiting other teaching positions.
- Interviewing for marketing development.
- Summer program has been recommended to state for funding, to be voted on tomorrow. It is a collaboration with Art Space Charter Schools. There will be family enrichment opportunities as well. Limited transportation is included to and from school.
- Calendar for 2022-23
  - o **Alisa moved that board adopt school calendar proposed by Michele, AI seconded: Unanimous approval of board**
- COVID-19 Ongoing Testing Program & Contact Tracing
  - o Conducting weekly COVID testing, we have not had any positives in the pool testing in at least 3 weeks. One student tested positive this week. Contract tracing is no longer required by the department of health, but school still notifies people that had close contact with positive cases.

#### **REVIEW OF MASK MANDATE**

Many letters from parents received re: mask mandates.

Board has been focused on using metrics that are accessible to school administration (CDC, Buncombe County Public Health, Strong Schools Toolkit.)

Parents Survey: 72% said move to mask optional

Student Survey: 62.5% said move to mask optional (226 respondents)

Staff: 75.5% - move to mask optional

Al expressed support for the Board's previous decision, and that our main concern is to keep the school open. Expressed that teachers can request students to wear masks but without enforcement measures.

Beth commented that Spring Break is next week and we should wait until afterwards. Additionally, brought up reports from NYT about new variants being reported.

Allison stated that 37% of students that want to keep the mask policy. Prioritizing the impact on that number of students stating that they want to keep masks is an important consideration.

Jamie agrees with Allison, but recognizing that a large portion of stakeholders wants to go optional. Reiterated the "Spring Break Situation", an option would be to remove mask mandates after a period after Spring Break. Also wants to honor teachers that are expressing vulnerability.

Bill commented that Spring Break has been going on for 5 weeks. Says it is important to consider metrics, including the change in Buncombe County metrics. Referred to letters from parents asking for metrics/science. Wants to reinforce the idea that teachers can request masks.

Michael's worry about teachers being able to ask for masks falls under Michele's purview, but the dynamic that it creates between teachers and students.

Michele says that theoretically the teacher preference idea is worthwhile, and that a lot of students would honor that. Michele will enforce what the board decides.

Jon reiterated Michael's point, that the dynamic introduced by giving teachers the option to request masks could be harmful to the milieu.

Sarah brought up the Board's reference to the Strong Schools Toolkit in guiding our practice, and that we should consider being consistent with that original decision.

Melanie said that it is not a choice for everyone, but that immunocompromised people do not have a choice or that the choice is not equal. Losing sight of that does cause grief amongst people who have to face the reality of people dying from COVID that are immunocompromised.

Jennifer said that she is concerned about the new variant and Spring Break and doesn't see the harm, felt that some of the letters felt emotionally manipulative. She has friends and family in the immunocompromised category. There is a group of people that cannot be vaccinated. She does not see the harm in requiring masks. Once the masks are off, she thinks it will be hard to put them back on. She doesn't think that people will jump ship (Michele interjected that she thinks staff and/or students may actually leave due to the board's decision.)

Rebecca said that we put masks on at Orange, that we should put them back on at Orange.

Alisa reminded us that we voted to keep masks on and be wrong by being overly cautious. At that point, the county was in the Orange range. Alisa said that she preferred we voted based on Strong School recommendations and that, while we are in the Green zone, we move to mask optional with the caveat that we call an emergency board meeting in the event that the county status shifts to Orange.

Rebecca asked if we will continue diagnostic testing regardless.

**Motion: Allison made a motion to keep the mask mandate as is. Second by Beth**

**Jamie - Yes, Rebecca - Yes, Jennifer - Yes, Beth - Yes, Allison - Yes Melanie - No, Alisa - No, Jon - No, Michael - No, Bill No, Al - No, Sara - No**

**Motion: Michael Motions to make Masks Optional beginning April 25th, Sarah seconded - Al - Yes, Jamie - Yes, Jon - Yes, Beth - Yes, Allison - abstain, rebecca - yes, Alisa - Yes, Melanie - Yes, Jennifer - No, Bill - Yes**

Jamie asked if teachers can require masks if they are immunocompromised. Michele said that we have had teachers with doctor's notes that have been allowed to teach remotely. A similar accommodation has been approved by the board for students via one of the remote learning plans submitted to the state.

Rebecca asked if teachers have a dr's note that says they need to have masks on around them, the school would have to review the request by the ADA "reasonableness" standard.

Motion to reintroduce mandatory mask policy if CDC risk level goes to medium for Buncombe County.

Allison motioned: If the CDC community risk for Buncombe County goes to medium we will reintroduce mandatory mask policy. Bill seconded.

Jennifer Yes, Sara No, Al - Yes, Jamie - Yes, Jon - Yes. Rebecca Yes Michael Yes Beth Yes Melanie Yes Alisa Yes.

#### **FINANCE UPDATE**

- Update on financing building expansion
- Ziegler bond financing
- Construction

30 second hot take - Bill said bond sale closed, lender was paid off (no prepayment penalty), money is at Bank of Oklahoma (bond trustee), better visibility next month. School put in 205k in equity, another 750k as contingency until June 1st. Won't know until final bids how much we will get back. Before closing, the school paid 110k in architecture and construction fees.

Next milestone is Jun 1, 2022 , when we will know how much of 750 we will get back.

#### **CLOSED SESSION – Personnel**

**ADJOURNMENT** 1. Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at \_\_\_\_p.m.? Motion by Michael Second by Jon  
Vote: All vote to approve