

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM.

Attendees included:

Keith Laytham

Martha Moyano

Dr Tina Cafiero (via Zoom)

Dr. Jackie Grimm (via Zoom)

Atlee Mercer

Wendy Farrell

Sandie Martinez (who was delayed by traffic and arrived slightly late)

Lynn Sparrock

Director Jeremy Mezzina

Director Mike Alfery

The only attendee from the public was Debra Bele from the Osceola School District. There were no public comments.

Review of the Minutes

A review indicated that the minutes did not include the people making the motion and seconding the motion to approve the staff pay vote from the October meeting. There was a motion made by Dr. Grimm and seconded by Keith Laytham. The motion was approved for the October meeting minutes to be amended and approved. A motion was then made by Lynn Sparrock to approve the amended October Minutes. It was seconded by Dr. Gimm and approved by a majority of the board.

Mike Alfery reviewed the Board Training status. Wendy needed to finish up her update, which she promised to do that day. Everyone is in compliance. There remain outstanding fingerprint issues with Atlee Mercer and Kulsom Khanani. Both are being addressed.

Jeremy Mezzina led the discussion of the Accreditation Portfolio. He took the Board through the procedure that was used to obtain staff input to prepare the portfolio for its submission to Cognia. Dr. Cafiero expressed that she felt the report was being unfairly critical of the school. She described her concerns resulting from her experience as an evaluator of such portfolio submissions in the past. Mr. Mezzina defended the planned submission based on his experience in a prior school where they had

submitted a higher rating report that had been rejected. It was agreed that Mr. Mezzina would enhance the introduction to paint a better picture of the school and then it would be submitted. The meeting to review this topic with Cognia is scheduled for Feb 27. Board members, the directors, and several teachers will attend the meeting.

Jeremy Mezzina then presented the results of Statewide assessments administered in the Winter. The overall results were mixed but good. The Geometry results showed a 49% pass rate this year compared to 50% last year. The pass rate on Geometry was 28% for our District and 23% for the State. This area needs work, with our goal being a pass rate of 60%. The Biology test results showed a 70% pass rate for this year compared to 64% last year, which is a significant improvement. The pass rate on Biology was 64% for the District and 41% for the State. The U.S. History test scores showed a 79% pass rate for this year compared to 80% last year. The U.S. History pass rate was 67% for the District and 48% for the State. Overall, the results were good but not good enough. The school plans to continue additional tutoring and practice testing to hopefully improve our scores by year end.

Mike and Jeremy then reviewed the subject of annual capacity and enrollment update. The motion was made by Dr. Cafiero and seconded by Lynn Sparrock to establish our annual capacity at 500 students. The motion passed. Further comment by Mike Alpers indicated that without additional dual enrollment participation our maximum number of students would be either 455 or 450. Although we started out at 450 for the year, we are now down to 434, which has budget implications.

The next item had to do with the request to provide extended health insurance for teachers and para-professionals whose contract for the school year had been completed and not yet renewed. The issue involved teachers in good standing who had completed their contract for the school year in either May or June depending on the calendar year and had not yet signed a new contract renewal. Under present policy, their health care coverage would end in June. If they told us they planned to come back, their coverage would be renewed, but if they changed their mind before signing the new contract, then the school would be faced with having provided the coverage but at the last minute being faced with a teacher shortage. The recommendation was to have the school provide the extra July coverage so that teachers would be encouraged to tell the school their plan at an earlier date. The motion was made to table this item so that Mike could provide a clear description of what he wants the board to vote on.

Mike Alfors then moved on to the budget update. He reviewed a spreadsheet that showed each budget category based on current FTE student count of 455 students. While some numbers were over budget and others were below, his spreadsheet showed that we would finish the year slightly under budget. The question was raised as to why we were using the number 455 when our actual enrollment was only 434. Mike's response was that since this was not the final year end budget review he had not completely updated the spreadsheet. He said that he felt that when he did so that we would still end up with a balanced budget. He agreed to make the requested update after the meeting and provided the updated spreadsheet to the board after the meeting.

We then discussed our current mortgage funding which comes up for refinance in 2026. Mike and Atlee Mercer said that they had initiated looking at this and would keep the board advised.

Mike then reviewed the current state of the campus improvement project that had been previously approved by the board. He stated that the planning work with the contractor was 55% completed for the parts of the project that had been greenlit based on funding: securing the front lobby, redoing the Gym,

replacing the siding on the main building, and installing a new sign in the front of the campus. He stated that they are meeting with the contractor and trying to schedule so that all the improvement could be completed during Summer break.

Mike and Jeremy then reviewed the updated plans for student recruitment for the 2025 school year. They described a targeted marketing campaign that would focus on more direct mail marketing and visiting charter middle school campuses. They stated that we would not be invited to do the same with public middle school campuses.

Director Martinez suggested that for future meetings an item be added to the agenda to allow directors to make individual comments. It was agreed to do so for future meetings.

At 9:00 AM the motion was made, seconded, and by vote the meeting was adjourned.