

2020 12 15 Tuesday final reviewed

HLA board meeting – by Zoom.

Present: Bernd Liesenfeld, Sharon Sperling, Bettianne Ford, Mike Collins, Non-BOD present Principal Borganelli, Amber Matts, Rebecca Carr, B Karcinski, Amber Matts, Karen David.

Started / Ended: 4:00pm called to order. Adjourned 5:27 pm.

Old Business and continuing

- Reviewed October 2020 meeting minutes. Clarification: there was no November meeting, so this is the most recent meeting to review.
 - Sharon **moved to accept Minutes**, Bettianne seconded. All approved.
- School improvements
 - Nothing big currently – may wish to replace some aging picnic tables.

Budget and planning items

- HB641: no update of note, and by all indications HLA is completely in compliance.
- Very important items:
 - Digital academy extended for the rest of the year by governors office. HLA plan was sent in (on short notice from state no less), and is in front of School Board. Reviews were positive based on HLA plan, so no issues expected.
 - Current attendance is 80 brick and mortar, and 26 digital. 2 more expected to return to B&M next 9 week period, + possible incoming student.
 - Testing is now monthly to better monitor students (per state guidance).
 - FSA is still expected to be used as state assessment, but there are no dates yet specified.
 - Teachers are reporting lower progress by students (compared to previous years, not compared to other schools) – this is reasonable given the population having missed 5 months of school!
 - Christmas program is being substituted because it is not appropriate for pandemic conditions. Wreath contest instead.
- Current state of instruction:
 - HLA currently maintaining 106-108 students, so steady with no exposure to fiscal threats from FEP deficit based on numbers. There is a wait list for all grades.

Other items:

- Board Liaison: staff member letter. Request to discuss Employee health insurance stipends. Currently \$325 provided by HLA, with that number having been static for some years. Basic health policies can easily exceed \$675/mo., so it's a big out of pocket expense. Health care is a single factor that could drive an exodus of talented teachers to settings able to offer better benefit coverage.
 - This is a very reasonable request and requires some research. Follow up steps to be taken:
 - Mapping out budget to correctly predict what can be spent.
 - Researching if there is an advantageous group that HLA could be part of to optimize the health insurance purchasing process. I.e. charter school group. There have been approaches to ACSB before, but it is unlikely that things have changed enough to allow HLA to participate in their pool.
 - Note that HLA offers a stipend, and that if it is not used for health insurance this represents income to personnel, so a change to format would be impactful for those not using the stipend for insurance payments.

- **Board meetings planning.** For the foreseeable future all meetings will be conducted remotely by Zoom or alternate platform.
 - Next board meeting planned for **January 19th at 4pm, and Feb 16th 4pm.**
 - March – April: need to have budget planning and salary discussions.
 - Note that school calendar goes to June 18th this year, so longer than usual.