APPROVED

Kestrel Heights Public Charter School

Minutes

September Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday September 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Directors Present
A. Davis (remote), B. Paris (remote), D. Wimberly (remote), S. Goram (remote), S. McGarrah (remote)

Directors Absent
D. Powe, R. Clement

Ex Officio Members Present
J. Price (remote), M. Callahan (remote), T. Jackson (remote)

Guests Present
A. Touchette (remote), Dale Edmonds (remote), Elise Pritchett (remote), Jose Martinez (remote), Justin Matthews (remote), M. Gordon, S. Bowens (remote), S. Villegas (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Davis called a meeting of the board of directors of Kestrel Heights Public Charter School to order on Tuesday Sep 13, 2022 at 6:33 PM.

B. Public Comment Submission

Ms. Davis invited participants to place public comment in the chat.

C. Record Attendance and Guests

D. Approve August Meeting Minutes

D. Wimberly made a motion to approve the minutes from August Board Meeting on 08-09-22.
B. Paris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Approve Minutes of the August Special Meeting

B. Paris made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Session Board Meeting on 08-22-22.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. Key Agenda Items & Presentations

A. Marketing and Enrollment Update

Ms. Vargas shared the Marketing and Enrollment Update. Social media engagement remains strong with pictures of activities and new building. Enrollment did drop from 476 to 426. Most of the scholars that left were returning scholars. Exit survey indicated that transportation and moving out of the area as reasons for leaving the school; it's possible that some families are moving post-COVID because they were able to get into other schools. Returning scholars make up 69% of current students and new scholars make up 31%.

Advertising with signs, referrals, flyers, and car magnets are part of the advertising approach.

B. Facilities Sub Committee

Mr. Matthews shared an update from the Facilities subcommittee. The construction project has experienced a number of delays. The subcommittee is working through the change order process at this time, and there are a number of discussions that need to take place regarding these negotiations. BCCG has committed a new project manager to the our project. The Facilities subcommittee meets weekly with BCCG on the project (including the school team).

III. Curriculum & Assessment

A. Success Stories From the Opening of the Lower Campus

Mr. Touchette provided an update on the opening of the lower school campus. The River Church has been a great partner, and there have been minimal disruptions to instructional plans. The third grade classrooms are in the same space, but you would not know it given the teachers' approach. There has been a strong emphasis on a strong school culture.

B. Student Performance Analysis

Ms. Villegas shared an analysis of student performance, which included the testing data that was released last week. DPI provided a lot of context for the data, and they noted that proficiency declined across the state as a result of the pandemic. The test results are the end of grade and end of course tests in reading (grades 3-8), mathematics (grades 3-8) and science (grades 5 and 8 only).

Kestrel's overall scores fell from 38% in 2019 proficiency to 22% proficiency in 2021 and 23% proficiency in 2022. Kestrel's grade level proficiency scores fell from 52% in 2019 to 36% in 2021 and 37% in 2022. Ms. Villegas's presentation also included grade level data. Kestrel's academic growth was at 75%. Overall, Kestrel met growth for all categories of students except economically disadvantaged students and EC students. Kestrel's school performance grade (which is calculated on 80% achievement and 20% growth) is a D. Many schools experienced declines and Kestrel's grade reflected what the vast majority of other Durham charter schools and public schools received.

Ms. Villegas also shared the school's plans for responding to help students, including grants, additional resources, small group settings, and math tutoring after school for students.

C. Kestrel Culture

Mr. Price shared a report on Kestrel Culture. Sixth grade orientation started with a scavenger hunt, set a goal and wrote a letter to themselves, and let them sign the rock. The Kestrel culture is a focus on a restorative, not a punitive approach. The entire school will use Class Dojo.

Mr. Price also shared information on transportation and WeeTramz, which is our service provider. There was a waitlist for transportation at the beginning of the year (29 scholars as of August 29), and Mr. Price was able to accommodate 16 of these scholars. He also reaches out to parents that indicate transportation is a barrier.

Mr. Price also shared the School Culture 2022-23 plan, which includes goals to strengthen school culture. Goals included: having a 98% attendance goal, having all teachers to award a minimum of 2 dojo points at the start of the day, having 100% of students engaged throughout the school day.

IV. Operational Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Mrs. Jackson shared the Executive Director report. It included an overview of the charter requirements, school culture, budget changes related to changed enrollment, and other matters.

B. Monthly Budget Report

Ms. Jackson shared a detailed monthly budget report. The reduced enrollment will have a budget impact of approximately $500,000, so there will need to be budget adjustments. The finance committee and school team are working on those adjustments and will bring back budget changes at our next meeting.

C. Request for Approval

Ms. Jackson requested that the Board approve funding in the amount of $8,332 for NewsELA resource for teachers to be paid for out of Title 1 funds.
S. McGarrah made a motion to Approve the purchase of NewsELA for $8,332.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2023

Mr. Price shared that the Emergency Operations Plan has been updated for the current school year to reflect the changes with a lower school in the River Church and other changes as needed.

V. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee

Ms. Davis shared that she will be talking with potential board members and getting them to apply. Board members should let Ms. Davis know if they have suggestions for new members.

VI. Closed Session

A. Enter Closed Session

S. McGarrah made a motion to Enter closed session per NCSL § 143-318.11 as follows: 1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded. (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Staffing Recommendations

C. Review of Contractual Agreement

VII. Closing Items

A. Report out from Closed Session

Ms. McGarrah reported that the Board discussed staffing recommendations and a contractual agreement in the closed session.
S. McGarrah made a motion to Approve the hiring recommendations for a second grade teacher, an Exceptional Children's teacher, a cafeteria manager, and a middle school science teacher.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Powe	Absent
D. Wimberly	Aye
R. Clement	Absent
A. Davis	Aye
B. Paris	Aye
S. Goram	Aye
S. McGarrah	Aye

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. McGarrah