APPROVED

Kestrel Heights Public Charter School

Minutes

February Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Location
----UPDATE----
The February 13, 2024 meeting of the KHS Board of Directors will be held VIRTUALLY.

Directors Present
A. Davis (remote), A. Hernandez (remote), D. Patterson (remote), D. Powe (remote), D. Wimberly (remote), S. Goram (remote), S. McGarrah (remote)

Directors Absent
None

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

Guests Present
A. Touchette (remote), Elise Pritchett (remote), S. Vargas (remote), S. Villegas (remote), Saleisha Averhart (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 Feb 13, 2024 at 6:32 PM.

B. Public Comment Submission

Mrs. Davis invited participants to enter any public comments into the chat.

C. Record Attendance and Guests

D. Approve January Meeting Minutes

D. Wimberly made a motion to approve the minutes from January Board Meeting on 01-16-24.
D. Patterson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. Key Agenda Items & Presentations

A. Marketing and Enrollment Update

Mrs. Vargas provided the Marketing and Enrollment Update. 443 new scholars are enrolled for the 2023-24 school year with a target of 505 scholars enrolled. Kestrel enrolled 7 new scholars in January and had 6 scholars leave (most were a result of a move). There were new applications as a result of social media. Lottery was held on February 5, 2024, with 160 new applications received. All current scholars except four are planning to return, which is higher than usual. Typically, Kestrel does have current scholars leave or move over the summer. Enrollment typically changes frequently for the next school year many times before a final number is reached. Mrs. Vargas will provide an update at the next few meetings.

B. Updates from the Facilities and Development Sub Committees

Mrs. McGarrah and Mr. Powe provided an update on the new joint Facilities and Development subcommittee meeting. The committee is meeting every other Monday, and we are presently working on funding for the energy and security upgrades. We may have another meeting to search for grant opportunities with the full board. Mrs. Gordon shared that the security equipment is arriving and is nearly ready for installation. Mr. Powe shared that he is working on a partnership with RTI.

III. Curriculum & Assessment

A. iReady Assessment

Ms. Villegas shared the iReady Assessment data. Reading has been the strongest area for the school, and Kestrel students as a whole saw a significant increase between the first and second testing period. Third grade saw the highest increase in reading scores

between the first and second testing period. Ms. Villegas shared the predictive proficiency in EOG scores with third, fourth and eighth grades showing the highest growth.

For math, Kestrel had lower schools overall, but there are signs of growth. Third, fifth and eighth grades showed the largest growth in scores between the first and second testing periods. Next steps are to hold check-ins and mid-year goal setting with students and staff to improve learning.

B. School Culture Report

Mr. Touchette shared the school culture report with some information about how Kestrel uses data. The staff are trying to move the school report card grade, and one of the ways they are doing this is through professional development and working to identify students' needs and making plans to assist them (including across grade levels).

On culture, there was an expectations reset in January community meetings while students had a chance to say goodbye to Mr. Price. There were advisory lessons held to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, to practice active listening, and to talk about fairness and confronting prejudice. There were book binge celebrations and weekly attendance celebrations. There was a slight decrease in attendance in January, which seemed to be mostly a result of illness.

Office referrals for disciplinary reasons were down significantly year over year for this school year (68 referrals in 23-24 down from 122 in 22-23). This reduction is likely a result of better behavior and more empowered teachers. Serious incidents that lead to Out of School Suspension were also down in the current school year. These incidents usually involve aggression and fighting.

IV. Operational Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Mrs. Jackson shared the Executive Director's report. Kestrel is on track in the state's EpiCenter portal and has submitted all information on-time. In the Office of Federal Programs, Kestrel has two major accountability components in the programs that must be reported on in the spring, and they are on-track.

B. Charter Renewal Site Visit - Thank You

Mrs. Jackson shared that the charter renewal site visit was the conclusion for the year one activities with the Board focus group and parents focus group. Mrs. Jackson shared the preliminary feedback from the compliance specialists.

C. ESSER/GEER Monitoring Report

Mrs. Jackson shared that Kestrel had ESSER and GEER monitoring by the State of North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction. There was only one finding for both funding sources, and Kestrel has a plan to resolve the finding through a survey of staff and the Board. The State gave Kestrel a glowing report that the school has been equitable in use of pandemic funds.

D. Monthly Budget Report

Mrs. Jackson shared the financial report. We are 58% of the way through the year, and Mrs. Jackson shared where we were more than 60% spent by category. Facilities costs, utilities, and transportation costs are areas that are over-budget. Kestrel is meeting the bond covenant agreements for days cash on hand and debt-service ratio.

E. Operations Report

Ms. Gordon shared the operations report. Numerous repairs have been made to the buses and buildings. The building was disinfected in January because of cold and flu season. We are still looking for a preventative maintenance contractor for the new building.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Sub-Committee

No new report.

B. Governance Committee - School and Community Policy & Finance Policy

We are waiting on legal counsel's advice for the school and community policy around custody issues, but we are ready to approve the other changes as presented.
S. McGarrah made a motion to Approve the finance policy as presented.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Hernandez	Aye
D. Powe	Aye
A. Davis	Abstain
D. Patterson	Absent
S. McGarrah	Aye
S. Goram	Aye
D. Wimberly	Aye

S. McGarrah made a motion to Approve the school and community policy as presented.
D. Wimberly seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Hernandez	Aye

Roll Call

S. McGarrah	Aye
D. Patterson	Absent
S. Goram	Aye
D. Powe	Aye
A. Davis	Abstain
D. Wimberly	Aye

C. Development Sub Committee

Mrs. Davis noted that the GoFundMe for the playground is still underway, and we are going to meet with the PTA to help engage parents and families.

VI. Closed Session

A. Enter Closed Session

S. McGarrah made a motion to Enter into closed session per NCGS § 143-318.11. (a) Permitted Purposes. - It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required: 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. Enrollment Strategist - Status Update

C. Board Meeting Agenda Items

VII. Closing Items

A. Report out from Closed Session

Mrs. McGarrah reported that the Board voted to approve a contract for the Bloomwell Group for marketing and enrollment services.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. McGarrah