

**MINUTES OF THE SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 13, 2013

Report By: Amanda Stoltzfus, Secretary

The November 13th, 2013 meeting of the Summit Charter School Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 pm by Wes Stone, Chairman, presiding. The following Trustee members were in attendance: Amanda Stoltzfus, AJ Grube, Wes Stone, Marsha LaFontaine, Sergio Barranco, Jay Drummonds, Tammy Bryson, Ed Morse, Shannon Hargrove, Geoff Allen, Sam Edgens, Martie Kingree, Jessica Barino, Summit Director, Jack Talmadge and Business Manager, Marie Starkings,

Absent: Rachel Dyer, Scott Westendorf

Visitors: Hannah Moody

Public Comment: No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes: Ed Morse moved to accept the minutes and Geoff Allen seconded. All in favor.

Director's Report by Dr. Jack Talmadge:

Campus Data: Enrollment 2013-2014- Our 20th day ADM was and remains 198 students. ***2013-2014 Operating Budget:*** We remain 3 students over budget, creating a little cushion this year. The SCSF grant request will remain \$190,000 of which \$50,000 has already been released in October. Summit was the beneficiary of Mountaintop's charity golf tournament. The SCSF assisted with the event's promotion and brought in \$50,400.00 in net proceeds to the foundation. ***EOG Testing:*** The official 2013 EOG scores have been released, and as expected, the entire State experienced a significant drop. North Carolina is in the adoption period of the new Common Core curriculum standards. During an adoption phase, accountability tests are reformatted and the scores are re-normed to a new scale. Teams of test strategists analyze, reanalyze, and in many cases, throw test questions out in an effort to develop a tool that will best measure a student's performance on the new State curriculum standards. A pilot phase, such as this, takes time and multiple test sessions, and for that reason, these scores *will not* count against our students or the school. It is very typical in a re-norming year for results to drop across the State, as the measurement tool has not yet been perfected. Historically, Summit students have performed remarkably well on the EOGs, giving us the elite title of *NC Honor School of Excellence*. Our composite score in 2012 was 9 points above the State's average. In 2013, we are now 16 points above the State's average, and continue to lead the public and charter sectors of education in North Carolina. Area composite scores are as follows: *Summit Charter School= 60.6 / NC Average= 44.7 / Jackson County= 42.4 / Blue Ridge= 35.5 / Blue Ridge Early College= 39.2 / Cullowhee Valley= 42.1 / Fairview Elementary= 49.5 / Macon County= 43.4 / Highlands School= 53.7 / Transylvania County= 48.5 / T.C. Henderson= 54.7* ***ERB Testing:*** We conducted our Educational Records Bureau (ERB) testing this week in grades 3-8. This is an in-house assessment we like to conduct to collect more detailed data on our students' performance and

skill abilities. This test is nationally normed and will give us a better indication as to how well are students are truly performing on aptitude tests. **Faculty & Staff: Updates-** Ms. Lauren Baxley (K Instructional Assistant) has announced that she will be leaving us in December to work for Kim Coward. I will begin a search immediately following the board's guidance on eligible candidates and nepotism at Summit. Mrs. Debbie Kenter (Dir. of Community Relations) has been hired on a full-time basis beginning November 1. Her salary and personnel benefits will now be paid under the school's umbrella, but will be reimbursed through the foundation grant. * Beth Talmadge has expressed interest and is able to apply for Kindergarten long-term substitute position: Geoff Allen made motion; Ed Morse seconded. All in favor. In relation to this search committee, if Beth Talmadge does apply, Jack Talmadge would not be a part of committee but would be a part of future search committees hiring faculty and staff. **Facilities: Technology grants:** Summit collectively received \$21,000 from the Wade Hampton Donor Advised Fund, Church of the Good Shepherd, and Cashiers Community Fund for our iPad initiative in the middle school. We will begin the pilot/implementation phase in January 2014. **Campus Expansion:** The SCSF closed on the 11.5 acre Slatten property in September. The new addition includes a residence, most likely to be condemned, and both land and structure has been added to the school's insurance coverage. The future usage of the new land will be determined following the renewal of Summit's strategic plan (Nov2013-Jan 2014). **Programs & Curricula: Athletics:** The MS soccer team ended their seasons as Tri-State Champions. The coaches did receive some concerns from a couple of parents regarding the uniform rotation policy on the team. I will note that it is developmentally appropriate to make cuts and play to win at this level of scholastic competition. While Summit has not made cuts, not every player sees playing time every game. Basketball season has begun, but due to lack of interest, the girls will not be entering a competitive team. The new recreation center has again opened its doors to us to hold a limited number of practices/week as well as four home games. **Historical Connections:** Our place-based studies this fall have made numerous historical connections to the area field excursions taken at all grade levels. A presentation of accomplishments will be made at the Cashiers Library next Tuesday at 5:30pm. **Strategic Planning:** The SCSF board requested that Summit and its various stakeholder entities conduct a formal strategic planning session before we move forward with any new construction. Members want to make sure that we grow appropriately under the new factors we face including, new property, charter growth opportunities, and other facilities built in the community since 2010. Brian Boone has been hired to lead the strategic process. He will begin data collection this month to include stakeholder surveys, demographic information, and constituent interviews. A 20-member strategic planning team will be appointed to review the data and develop the plan's new initiatives and goals on December 12th and 13th. We will need a strong participation level from the school board, as the official guardians of the new plan to be implemented in 2014. *Data collection currently going on as a parent survey went out this week for Strategic Plan. Board and teacher surveys will be sent out as well as for community members. Strategic Planning Session will be on Dec. 12 & 13. (Board members interested in being at meeting: AJ Grube, Wes Stone, Hannah Moody (Faculty Representative), Ed Morse, Sam Edgens, Martie Kingree?, Jay Drummonds?, will ask Scott Westendorf & Rachel Dyer.

Committee Reports:

SFA (Jessica Barino)

Summit Fest profit: \$2,201.00. Sports concession were a success this year. Christmas parade coming up.

Finance (Martie Kingree)

Finances in good shape and in the black. Finances look the best they have now than in the past several years.

Facilities (AJ Grube)

By: Jay Drummonds

Sergio Barranco, Scott Westendorf & Steve Doerter finished the stage for amphitheater. Finishing touches still to be completed. Tentative meeting with Michael Stoltzfus this week for facilities manual.

Educational Resource (Geoff Allen)

Will be getting together next week for meeting. Initial goal will be to look at strategic plan.

TRUSTEE (Amanda Stoltzfus)

Geoff spoke on SharePoint. Each Board member will have a log-in ID. Geoff will have a follow-up online meeting explaining how board members will use the program.

New Business:

Asked members to think of names to submit for new board member positions for the coming year. Would like to have the expertise of an attorney on the board as well. All members are requested to look over the by-laws for any prospective changes or updates that may need to be made for updating purposes. Possible changes should be able to be reviewed before the next board meeting.

Adjournment:

No other formal business. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.