

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

May 28, 2014

Report By: Amanda Stoltzfus, Secretary

The May 28th, 2014 meeting of the Summit Charter School Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 pm by Wes Stone, Chairman, presiding. The following members were in attendance: Wes Stone, Amanda Stoltzfus, Ed Morse, Rachel Dyer, Sergio Barranco, Scott Westendorf, Marsha LaFontaine, Jessica Borino, Geoff Allen, Shannon Hargrove, Tammy Bryson, Martie Kingree, Sam Edgens, Summit Director, Jack Talmadge and Business Manager, Marie Starkings, **Absent:** AJ Grube **Visitors:** Lauren Bennett

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Ed Morse moved to approve the minutes and Martie Kingree seconded. All in favor.

Director's Report by Dr. Jack Talmadge: CAMPUS DATA: 2014-2015 Enrollment: Enrollment status for next year: (K: 24/ 7 Waitlist), (1st: 24/ 2 Wait.), (2nd: 21/ 0 Wait.), (3rd: 24/ 2 Wait.), (4th: 24/ 5 Wait.), (5th: 24/ 3 Wait.), (6th: 24/ 3 Wait.), (7th: 16/ 0 Wait.), (8th: 19/ 0 Wait.) TOTAL: 200 Committed/ 27 Waitlist. **2014-2015 Projected Operating Budget:** The State reduced per-pupil funding for next year by \$230.00/child. \$80,000 to \$90,000 less than budgeting figures this time last year. Given the lower parent/community participation in Summit Fund, employee salaries have been frozen, some positions will be scaled back, & some strategic programs will need to be cut for next year's budget. **EOG Testing:** EOG & EOC underway. Testing must be completed in the last 10 days of school, increasing demand on testing proctors/locations. This year is again a re-norming year, the State will be assessing scale scores. Therefore, testing will not count against us in our ABC school performance, and low-students scoring will not have to retest. Student scores on the 3rd grade English/Language Arts test will count towards the new Read to Achieve requirement. Students who do not pass EOG will take secondary test. If secondary not passed, they will be required to complete summer remediation. **FACULTY & STAFF: Resignations/New Hires:** 4th grade lead/assistant teachers (Rachel Kirby/Julie Doerter) will not return next year. Once contracts are returned will have a better idea of any other non-returning faculty. As requested by the board, kindergarten assistant position will be reopened to consider other candidates & best placement of faculty in that classroom. **4th Grade Concerns:** Team dynamics & management problems (4th grade) have led to issues in student response/behavior. Despite intervention attempts, professional development & increased supervision, ongoing concerns called for change in personnel. Students have responded very well to Therese Murdock's influence. **FACILITIES: Soccer Field:** SCS Foundation Board has allotted reserved capital funds to make improvements to the soccer field area. **Campus Security:** Eight new surveillance cameras installed around campus. Blue Ridge Public Safety have the ability to monitor live video feed. I will be meeting with the new chief, Roy Taylor, this summer to discuss these options. **Technology Upgrades:** We have applied for additional grant funding to expand the number of iPad devices for student use. Finding appropriate textbooks that meet our curricular needs as well as the funding of this software have been a challenge. For that reason, the 1:1 pilot program was not fully implemented, and the devices at this time have been used as a supporting resource for teachers. Additional teacher training was also recognized as a need before distributing the iPads to students. **The Bascom Art Center:** The Bascom requested usage of facilities during the summer to offer classes to adults & children here in Cashiers. The SCSF approved the partnership and worked out a usage agreement/policy/fee schedule. Classes begin 6/7. **PROGRAMS & CURRICULA: Spring Open House/Showcase:** Changed Trail Night program to allow for each grade to showcase the many excursions, projects & lessons that support our mission for place-based education. While the classroom presentations through digital storybooks were impressive, the parent turnout declined to less than 50%. **Intensive Study:** Grades 3-8 conducted an afternoon intensive study over two weeks this spring. Students were divided into various groups based on differentiated learning abilities, which also allowed an average 8:1 student-teacher ratio. Topics focused on math, language arts & science, and the overall program model was tested to see if this strategy would work in the future for other course variations supported in the new strategic plan. The overall response was extremely positive, and we will look forward to seeing anticipated improvement on the EOG tests. **Student-led Conferences:** Middle school successfully piloted student-led conferences for 3rd quarter. We will continue this format for middle school conferences next year. **Bullying Policy:** Recent increases in specific student behavior have given cause for us to institute a more formal policy on bullying. I will ask for board approval on the proposed policy.

Athletics: Golf brought home the Conference Title, giving Summit a total of 2 championships in its 6 team-sport offerings. Tennis was again recognized for overall outstanding sportsmanship. **Tour De Cashiers:** We supplied more than 50 volunteers to cover the rest stop needs, ride preparations, & course markings. I will encourage us to continue this partnership. **Field Excursions:** 3rd grade Atlanta trip & 8th grade Charleston trip both provided enjoyable & educational experiences this spring. We scheduled 18 other field excursions this spring as well. **STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE:** The SCS Foundation accepted & approved adoption of strategic plan. They have called for the establishment of 4 support committees: *Campus Master Planning *Instructional Program *Whole Child Experiences *Community Partnerships. I will ask for representation from this board to these committees, and will recommend we restructure the Educational Resource committee to align with this plan. The SCSF is also developing a plan for funding the new strategic priorities. This will obviously dictate the degree of depth to campus & action planning. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** *Summit Family Picnic*- Mon., 6/2, 4:30-7:30 @ Tom Sawyer's Tree Farm, *Graduation*- Fri., 6/6 @ 10:00am, end of year dismissal at 12:00noon, *Taste of the Plateau*- Patron Party will be held at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley on 6/26, & Chef's Gala will be held at school on Sun., 6/29. We will need plenty of assistance from our parents. *Board Retreat*- TBA Summer of 2014, *Opening Day of School*- Mon., 8/18 (Book Day).

SCS Foundation Board Update (Shannon Hargrove):

Will have a summer meeting with board members. Will pick up 1 to 2 new board members next year. Strategic plan took up a good deal of last meeting. Looking forward to Taste of Plateau event and these members coming.

SFA Update (Jessica Borino):

End of year picnic @ Tom Sawyer Tree Farm. New families have been contacted and invited to the picnic. (First year doing this.) Nominations have been sent out for next year's SFA board. Melanie Jones will be President again next year.

Treasurer's Report (Martie Kingree):

Close-out of this year's budget is looking good. Will close out about \$18,000 in the black.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive (Wes Stone):

Committee discussed details of board meeting.

Facilities:

New Security System. Some electrical work coming.

Educational Resource (Geoff Allen):

Several teachers had expressed interest in Basics Training for Software such as PowerPoint & add-ins to use the Whiteboard and technology more effectively. Joe Fowler will be building out sub net over the summer to create the additional IP capacity for the iPads. Discussed Prototyping a classroom site using technology of choice over the summer. Should plan technology wish list mtg. w/ the Tech Committee. Create a needs list & roadmap to the solution.

Trustee (Amanda Stoltzfus): Jay Drummonds resigned from board after serving 5 years. Request made to submit names for 2014-2015 Board. Will vote on any new board members in next meeting.

New Business:

*Summit Bullying Policy – Bullying issues this year in 4th grade. Lauren Bennett created new bullying policy. Will provide professional development at the beginning of the year. Lauren will also educate students on what bullying is, how to report it, inappropriate use of technology as a use for bullying. Will work on creating a culture at Summit that bullying is not tolerated. Bullying Policy will be signed every year by parents/students (Parent Partnership Agreement). Questions arose re:3 strike policy. What is a strike? (Would like the strike policy defined.) What specific actions are bullying? 3 strikes a year or per student the entire time they are enrolled. Need clarity on offenses and consequences. / Motion made by Geoff Allen: Add to bullying policy that an act of bullying will result in a strike. Second: No second. / Wes Stone proposed to add the word “strike” as a possible consequence to bullying. Motion: Ed Morse, Seconded: Martie Kingree. Motion approved by all members present & opposed by Geoff Allen. Board voted on & approved new Bullying Policy. *Bylaws – suggestions for changes sent from AJ Grube. Send any changes for bylaws to Wes Stone.

Adjournment:

No other formal business. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.